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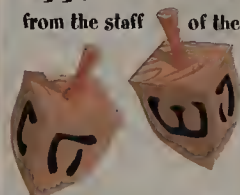
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Happy Chanukah

from the staff of the



Ottawa Jewish Bulletin

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Honoree Barbara Crook addresses the 2008 JNF Negev Dinner at the Museum of Civilization as fellow honoree Dan Greenberg looks on. (Photo: Howard Kay)

Barbara Crook and Dan Greenberg honoured at 2008 JNF Negev Dinner

By Michael Regenstreif

A small, but noisy, group of anti-Israel protesters at the entrance to the driveway of the Museum of Civilization across the river from Parliament Hill may have momentarily raised a few eyebrows, but had virtually no effect on the spirits of the much larger crowd that filled the museum's Grand Hall to capacity for Ottawa's 2008 Jewish National Fund (JNF) Negev Dinner honouring Barbara Crook and Dan Greenberg.

In all, 613 people attended the Negev Dinner, a number of great significance to Judaism as the total number of commandments mentioned in the Torah, but, coincidentally, also a number of local

significance as Ottawa's telephone area code. Funds raised by the dinner will establish the *Barbara Crook and Dan Greenberg Water Reservoir* at Mishmar HaYarden, north of Lake Kinneret in the Upper Galilee.

"This is an incredible moment for Barbara and me," said Greenberg in thanking the audience for its support. "We are all family and friends joining together in support of this water reservoir in Israel."

In celebrating the work of JNF, Crook recalled going on a mission to Israel two years ago just after the war with Hezbollah and seeing forests that had

(Continued on page 2)

Chabad buries emissaries murdered in Mumbai

By Dina Kraft

KFAR CHABAD, Israel (JTA) — Rabbis wept, women wailed and Chabad faithful called for avenging the tragedy in Mumbai with holiness and love as thousands gathered here December 2 for the funerals of the two Chabad emissaries killed in the Mumbai terrorist attacks.

The mourners came together under a sun-drenched Israeli sky in this Chabad Lubavitch town near Tel Aviv outside the replica of the late Lubavitcher rebbe's home in Brooklyn, NY. The bodies of Rabbi Gavriel and Rivkah Holtzberg were laid out in front of the red-

brick house side by side, wrapped in prayer shawls.

The rabbis eulogizing the couple said the tragedy of their being killed in the house in which they had hosted and celebrated holidays with so many should be met by even more outreach by Chabad emissaries.

"We need to have a revenge of light, an attack of boliness and love," said Rabbi Naftali Liebsker, who helps co-ordinate Chabad's emissaries, known as *schluchim*, worldwide. "Join us! That will be our answer."

Mourners appeared particularly aggrieved by the couple's now-orphaned son, two-year-

old Moshe, who was spirited out of the Mumbai Chabad House during the attack by his Indian nanny.

"The whole world and, of course, the Jewish people need an answer to the question asked by a two-year-old child: 'Where is my mother?'" Israeli President Shimon Peres said.

For Israelis generally, the attacks in India thousands of miles away felt both painful and familiar. They know that Israeli and Jewish sites around the world are potential and sometimes relatively easy targets for terrorists. But the form of those bloody attacks and the prolonged commando raid at the Mumbai Chabad

House have prompted Israelis to consider a new level of vulnerability.

"The war against terror has changed," wrote Amos Harel in the Israeli daily *Ha'aretz*. "Until now, the military assumed that, after stabilizing the situation, it will have quantitative and intelligence superiority over the enemy. But, as soon as large areas such as hotels are attacked, the challenge becomes incalculably more complex. Even Israel does not have enough units capable of handling a few hostage-taking and other attacks simultaneously."

(Continued on page 4)

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Establishing peace 'a daunting challenge' says Ross

(Continued from page 1)

been nurtured for 100 years tamed to blackened stumps.

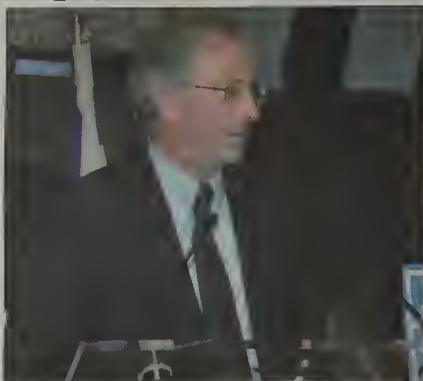
"JNF mourned the loss and got back to work," she said, with reforestation that will result in even more environmental diversity than before.

Crook also noted her pride in being a "Jew by choice," who fell in love with Israel on her visit there. Crook is associate director and North American representative of Palestinian Media Watch.

The dinner's keynote speaker was Dennis Ross, a prominent player in Middle East peace negotiations during the administrations of former American presidents George Bush, Sr. and Bill Clinton. During the recent U.S. election campaign, Ross was the chief adviser to President-elect Barack Obama on issues pertaining to the Israel-Palestinian peace process and Iran.

Currently director of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, Ross was quick to say he has not yet been appointed to any position in the incoming Obama administration. Many Washington observers, though, believe he will have a prominent role in shaping Middle East policy, and in the peace process, when the new American president takes office in January.

In looking at the current state of Israel's peace negotiations with the Palestinians, Ross said a "sense of belief" in the process needs to be re-



Keynote speaker Dennis Ross talks about prospects for Middle East peace at the Negev Dinner.

(Photo: Howard Kay)

stored among the populations on both sides. In Israel's case, he said, the sense of disbelief in the possibility of peace has been exacerbated by the results of Israel's withdrawals from Lebanon in 2000 and Gaza in 2005 because Hezbollah and Hamas interpreted the withdrawals as signs of Israeli weakness, escalating their terror campaigns rather than seizing opportunities to advance the cause of peace.

Ross said many Israelis now fear that a complete withdrawal from the West Bank would have the potential of turning "every Israeli community into Sderot."

In order to succeed, Ross suggested that "peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians need to operate at multiple levels" and point-

ety. Palestinians, he said, need to recognize that such incitement only serves to hurt their own cause.

"Those who act against peace are acting against Palestinian interests."

The Israelis, he added, would help the situation by allowing increased mobility of Palestinians within the West Bank by eliminating unnecessary checkpoints and by easing or eliminating waiting times elsewhere.

The second priority, Ross said, would be to establish a viable Palestinian economy in the West Bank. A stronger economy would bolster the Palestinian Authority, which is something that is strongly in Israel's interest.

"The alternative to a successful Palestinian Authority," Ross pointed out, "is

Hamas."

The third important area is security. Both sides need to re-establish the feeling they are secure within their own territories. For the Israelis, that means being free of ongoing threat of rocket attacks and, for the Palestinians, it means being free of oppression by Israeli soldiers.

The fourth priority in the peace process, Ross said, would be a greater involvement of the other Arab states in the region.

"They have to invest in peacemaking."

Ross pointed to the indirect negotiations between Israel and Syria as a positive step, but said the two governments need to engage more directly.

Ross's final priority is to protect the peace process it-

self. While conceding that establishing a lasting peace remains "a daunting challenge, it is possible to transform things. It is important to never give up."

On the question of Iran, and in preventing Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons, Ross said it was important to engage the Iranians.

"Non-engagement [of the Bush-era] hasn't worked."

Ross said the West does have leverage in dealing with Iran, a country that faces staggering unemployment in the range of 30 to 40 per cent, an inflation rate of 29.4 per cent and quickly dropping oil revenues.

"Until now, we've used weak sticks and weak carrots with Iran. What are needed are strong sticks and strong carrots," he said.

Couple's philanthropy supports many worthy causes

By Cynthia Nyman Engel

For many years, Dan Greenberg and his wife, Barbara Crook, have been quietly and generously supporting many worthy causes in the Jewish and general communities, always keeping a low profile.

Recently, however, Greenberg made headlines when he received the Outstanding Philanthropist Award at the Ottawa Philanthropy Awards Gala on November 12.

Two weeks later, on November 24, the Jewish National Fund honoured the philanthropic couple at the Ottawa Negev Dinner, before an admiring audience of 613. Funds raised by the dinner will be used to see established the Barbara Crook and Dan Greenberg Water Reservoir at Mishmar HaYarden in Israel's Upper Galilee.

Why the sudden change of heart?

"Dan is a typical Greenberg," explains Ron Prebogan, the couple's legal counsel and adviser. "He doesn't want the fanfare, but his sense of duty to show philanthropic leadership and to honour in perpetuity the legacy of his parents, Shirley and the late Irving Greenberg, forced him to overcome his private nature."

"Dan and Barbara's philanthropy is very collaborative, very much a family thing. They helped Shirley establish the Shirley Greenberg Women's Health Centre and the Shirley Greenberg Chair for Women and the Law at the University of Ottawa," Prebogan adds.

"And, of course, their lead donations helped establish the Irving Greenberg Theatre Centre housing the Great Canadian Theatre Company as well as the Irving Greenberg Family Cancer Centre currently under construction

at the Queensway Carleton Hospital.

"Their overwhelmingly generous support of the Jewish community and health care, education and the arts in the general community is unprecedented in terms of its depth, breadth and scope."

"Dan and Barbara have been quietly generous for a long time, but, thankfully, they have now come forward. How proud we in the Jewish community should feel that they give so generously to both the Jewish and general communities."

"This couple epitomizes many of the highest Jewish values such as *Tikkun Olam*, *tzedakah* and the commandment to honour one's parents."

Jack Silverstein agrees fully.

"We are so fortunate to have such dedicated and generous individuals like Barbara and Dan as part of our

community," says the executive director of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa Annual Campaign and president of the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation.

"It's not only that they give generously, they also take tremendous pride in watching our community grow and are deeply committed to the longevity of all of our communal institutions. Barbara and Dan's philanthropic support is truly an inspiration in both the Jewish community and greater Ottawa community."

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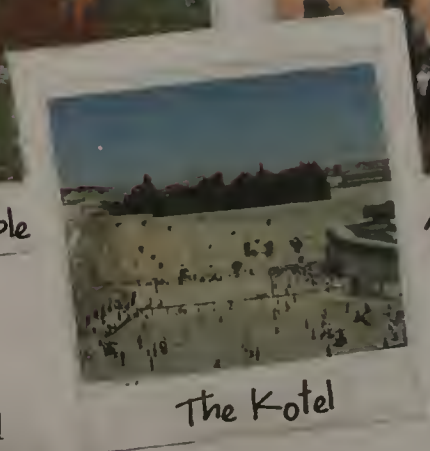
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Close to 300 people, including Israeli Ambassador Miriam Ziv, clergy and community officials, attend a memorial service for the victims of the Mumbai terrorist attacks, organized by Chabad of Ottawa, November 30, at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre.

(Photo: Peter Walser)

Six Israelis murdered in the Mumbai attack

(Continued from page 1)

Yaron Schweitzer, the director of the Counter-Terrorism Project at Tel Aviv University's Institute for National Security Studies, said the Mumbai attack was being thoroughly scrutinized.

"No one is surprised that Jewish and Israeli sites are being targeted by global Mujahadeen, but the method of operation, including the massive manpower and firepower, are all being studied carefully to be ready for any surprise," Schweitzer told JTA.

"Here they imported the battlefield into the city in a Babi Yar-style operation. They went in not planning for a hostage situation but pure killing en masse, and this is what should be acknowledged and prepared for."

Six Israelis were killed in the attack on the five-storey apartment building that housed the Chabad centre in Mumbai. They reportedly were bound and executed, and there were conflicting reports about whether or not they were also tortured before their deaths. Several were found in prayer shawls, possibly put on

them by Rabbi Holtzberg before he was killed.

Sandra Joseph, the family's nanny, locked herself in a laundry room when the shooting began and heard Rivkah Holtzberg calling to her for help. Then she heard shots fired followed by an eerie silence. Joseph said she then crept out of her hiding place and found Moshe crying next to his parents' bodies. She scooped the boy into her arms and fled the building.

The footage of Moshe in his nanny's arms was played repeatedly by Israeli TV stations. As part of the drama, cameras followed Moshe's maternal grandparents preparing to leave Israel for India holding out hope that they would be reunited with their daughter and son-in-law alive.

Instead, they bid the couple final goodbyes at the funeral services at Kfar Chabad – literally "Chabad Village." Adding to the cruelty of her death, Rivkah – or Rivki, as she was called – was six months pregnant at the time of her murder.

She and Rabbi Holtzberg, who, like her, was born in Israel but grew up in New York, had decided shortly after getting married to become emissaries for the Lubavitch movement.

In a video of the couple taken about two years ago in their Mumbai home, they are seen beaming wide smiles. A

shot of Rivkah shows her bringing out a tray of Chanukah *sufganiyot*, jelly doughnuts. Rabbi Holtzberg describes the special sense of mission he feels helping out Israelis in distress, particularly those he would visit who were imprisoned in India, usually on drug-related charges.

Yossi Katz, a geography professor at Bar-Ilan University, was with the couple on their last Shabbat. A frequent traveller and visitor to Chabad Houses around the world, he said he had been especially taken by the warmth and enthusiasm of his young hosts.

Katz talked with the Holtzbergs about their sense of mission as Chabad emissaries.

"Rivki said that being emissaries for them had become a way of life – not done in connection to something else, but their very lives," he told JTA.

Katz watched Rivkah explain the tenets of Judaism to Norma Shvarzblat Rabinovich, 50, a Jewish woman from Mexico planning to make aliyah who was visiting India. Rabinovich was killed at the Chabad House during the terrorist attack. She was buried Tuesday in Israel along with Yocheved Orpaz, 60, a mother of four from the Tel Aviv suburb of Givatayim who had gone to India to meet

(Continued on page 5)

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Chabad men mourn near the bodies of Rabbi Gavriel Holtzberg and his wife, Rivkah, during their funeral in Kfar Chabad, near Tel Aviv, on December 2, 2008.

(Photo: Brian Hendler)

Mumbai Chabad House to be dedicated to rabbi and wife

(Continued from page 4)
her daughter and two grandchildren who were travelling there.

Two Israeli kashrut inspectors also were killed in the Mumbai attack. Aryeh Leibish Teitelbaum, 38, of Jerusalem and Bentzion Chroman, 28, of Bat Yam reportedly had stopped by the Chabad House to pray before catching a flight to Israel.

Chroman, a kosher supervisor, is survived by his wife and three children.

Teitelbaum, who is survived by his wife and eight

children, was in charge of kosher supervision for a large American organization and had travelled for work to India via China.

Teitelbaum's family, members of the non-Zionist Satmar Chasidic sect, caused some controversy in Israel when they requested that the Israeli flag not be draped on Teitelbaum's coffin at a brief state ceremony at Ben Gurion Airport near Tel Aviv, when the bodies arrived in Israel.

At the funerals at Kfar Chabad, Lubavitch officials announced that renovations of

the Chabad House in Mumbai would begin immediately and that the building would be dedicated anew, renamed for Rabbi Gavriel and Rivkah Holtzberg.

One of the only items from the Chabad House to survive unscathed in the attack was a large, gilded framed picture of the late Lubavitcher rebbe, Menachem Mendel Schneerson. It was seen in photos and footage after the attack propped on a chair surrounded by broken glass and blood-splattered, bullet-riddled walls.

Hillel Ottawa sees phenomenal growth on three campuses

By Bobby Wollock,
President, Algonquin College Hillel
Fifty-one years ago, the Ottawa Jewish community, supported by the national Hillel organization, created Ottawa Hillel.

Before Hillel, there were smaller, unfunded groups serving Jewish students at the University of Ottawa and Carleton University. These groups merged in 1957 under Hillel's umbrella to bring Jewish students together and support social, political, cultural and religious programs on campus.

Rabbi Samuel M. Burstein, the first Hillel director, wrote in 1960: "Those of us who worked toward this formalization knew what we wanted from Hillel, which, essentially, is the introducing of modern college youth to 4,000 years of Jewish tradition."

In 1974, Hillel became a part of the Jewish Students' Union (JSU). This name change accompanied the inclusion of different Zionist and Jewish groups on the campuses of both universities. The new campus

organization, like many other Jewish organizations from across North America, took on the plight of Soviet Jewry. JSU arranged for speakers, had tables, organized national protests on Parliament Hill and raised thousands of dollars.

Throughout my own student career, JSA-Hillel has seen phenomenal growth and change designed to create an even more vibrant Jewish community on campus. We have experienced a five-fold growth in membership, have changed our name back to Hillel Ottawa, established a Hillel presence at Algonquin College and, most significantly, established a Hillel house.

The house was a huge step forward in solidifying Hillel's presence on campus. The house has six tenants, a lounge (with Internet and a big screen TV) and enough space for some Hillel events.

For 51 years, Hillel has been the centre for Jewish life on campus. Today, more than ever, we are one of the most vibrant, active organizations on all three Ottawa campuses.



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We are approaching a significant milestone in our community's history.

The Jewish Federation of Ottawa, formerly the Jewish Community Council of Ottawa/Vaad Ha'Ir, was founded in 1934. So we'll be celebrating our 75th anniversary in 2009.

The Federation wants to mark this important milestone with something meaningful. With that in mind, we've come up with a plan to highlight our community's greatest asset ... our volunteers.

The Jewish Federation of Ottawa has created the 75th Anniversary Award to honour 75 individual volunteers not previously recognized by the Jewish community. Recipients will be individuals who, through their volunteer work, serve our mission to ensure the maintenance of a vibrant Jewish life in Ottawa, and who dedicate their time and energy to help the community achieve its goals.

We are seeking 75 worthy individuals, representing the many areas falling under Federation responsibility, such as fundraising, allocations, community relations, Holocaust remembrance, kashrut, maintenance of the mikveh, support for university students, youth travel to Israel, community archives ... the list goes on and on.

When the Vaad Ha'Ir was officially constituted in 1934, it was mandated to oversee



Federation Report

Jonathan
Freedman
Chair

every facet of operation in the community. This included supervising and directing the religious, cultural, philanthropic and national life of Ottawa's Jewish community; much like the role of today's Federation.

Our role today also includes uniting our community with other Jewish communities of Canada and around the globe through our collaborative work with national organizations.

We have definitely come a long way since the humble beginnings of Ottawa's Jewish community, from the days of daily minyans in someone's home. We are now close to 14,000 strong with 10 synagogues, three preschools, three elementary day schools, two high schools, five afternoon schools and we enjoy access to an extensive kosher department in the largest grocery store in Ottawa.

We also have 29 communal agencies who, through their outstanding services, work to transform lives. Seventy-five years

has built strong ties to Israel through a variety of organizations and programs. Each year, our community Mission to Israel continues to build upon that bridge that connects us to Israel.

*... it is our hope
that we can identify people
from all areas
of our community
as representatives
of all the wonderful people
who serve our community.*

Hard work, collaboration, substantial financial resources and, most importantly, the help of hundreds and hundreds of committed volunteers over the years, have all had a hand in making this community a thriving and going concern. We have weathered many storms along the way with more likely still to come.

I am the 33rd person to serve as chair or president of the Federation. When I read the names of my illustrious predecessors, I am truly in awe of their individual and collective contributions in shaping this community and in paving the way for our successes and the

quality Jewish life we all now enjoy.

It seems fitting to be celebrating our 75th anniversary in a year where our campaign slogan is *I want a Jewish Future*. So join me as we undertake what we consider to be an important initiative in recognizing these 75 outstanding volunteers while we look ahead to the future of our community.

While these awards cannot possibly begin to recognize all of the countless volunteers who are worthy of recognition, it is our hope that we can identify people from all areas of our community as representatives of all the wonderful people who serve our community.

Over the coming months, you will hear more about our 75th Anniversary through the *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin* which, in addition to devoting editorial content to this special occasion, will also produce a commemorative supplement that will reflect the breadth and scope of our 75 years.

Please help us identify worthy candidates by submitting their names by January 30, 2009 to Dawn Paterson at dpateron@jewishottawa.com.

As this *Bulletin* arrives at your home, many of you will be polishing menorahs and pulling out a favourite latke recipe in anticipation of Chanukah. My family would like to take this opportunity to wish this great community of ours a happy and joyous Chanukah!

As we approach Chanukah, we need a miracle, fast

We could use a Chanukah miracle right now. We could use a little bit of resource (not only oil) going a long way.

The entire world is in an economic tizzy. And all the experts have been befuddled. In retrospect, everything can be explained, but when it comes to money management, people need forecasters, not aftercasters.

The repercussions of this explosion are immense. Everyone is affected. People who were looking forward to settling into a manageable retirement are now forced to find work. People with jobs are losing those jobs. Governments are scrambling to hold the fort and prevent further collapse. The world has literally been turned upside down.

Yes, everyone tries to forge ahead as if nothing happened, but that flies in the face of reality. With all the expectation that the market will rebound, it will be psychologically difficult to move forward with confidence in the market, unless and until there will be some firm and logical reasons to have confidence restored.

The market was never a sure thing. And now people who plan their lives based on sure things are hard pressed to figure out what is a sure thing. Well, the only sure thing in life is that there is no sure thing.

Just because we are here today is no guarantee we will be here tomorrow. That could be the cause of great anxiety. On the other hand, it could be the source of great



From the pulpit

Rabbi Reuven P.
Bulka
Machzikei Hadas

blessing. With no guarantee, we can, and should, look at every day as a gift and translate that into a value-laden life rooted in gratitude for having this precious gift.

Whether we will be here is not a sure thing, and how we will be is, likewise, not a sure thing. The Talmud takes a dim view of those who have enough for today but worry about tomorrow. There is nothing wrong with being concerned about tomorrow, but, to worry about tomorrow, to the extent that one cannot appreciate today, is ill advised.

Ironically, that is part of the 'recovery advice' we are hearing, that we should continue to live out the todays, so that the economy does not go into an even bigger funk. Imagine what would happen if people held off buying things they 'need.' The stores that supply them would go bankrupt, and you can easily imagine the ripples this would cause in all directions.

This is not to suggest that people should splurge, only that they should not get into a 'denial' mode. The message is one that we hear often, but which resonates even

more sharply today – we are in it together, and we will get out of it only if we stick together.


This is true locally, nationally and globally. Globally, leaders are committing to no new protectionist measures. Protectionism is the opposite of togetherness. To protect yourself and, by so doing, cast off any care about anyone else is bad policy on a personal level, on a communal level and, yes, on a global level.

The world is mired in the mess together

and will be extricated from it only by acting consistently on the theme of togetherness.

For us, as we move toward Chanukah, we begin to apprehend its many messages. Probably none is as powerful as the notion that, when we are divided, we are in trouble, and when we are together, miracles are possible.

We can all use a heaping dose of Chanukah magic right now. But it starts with us.

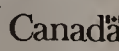


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ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Seymour Diener, chair; Anna Blisky; Stephen Bindman; Mark Buckshon; Jack Cramer; Diane Koven; Louise Rachlis; Michael Wollock.

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OPIRG reinforces perception leftist anti-Zionism is anti-Semitic

Reporter Liana Shlien has a story on page 13 of this issue of the *Bulletin* about a visit to Ottawa on November 20 by Israel Siriri, the chair of the small Abayudaya Jewish community in Uganda, and a talk that he gave about his community at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre. The primary sponsor of Siriri's visit here was Hillel Ottawa – the Foundation for Jewish Campus Life.

In advance of Siriri's visit, Hillel approached the Ontario Public Interest Research Group at the University of Ottawa (OPIRG-Ottawa), a group funded by a \$3 38 annual levy on every uOttawa student, and asked for assistance in promoting the event with the African Jewish leader.

OPIRG-Ottawa states that its "mission is to bring together and build upon a broad-based community dedicated to social, economic and environmental justice. OPIRG is concerned with the contribution that students, the university and the community can make towards social change."

Given OPIRG-Ottawa's mandate, it is quite logical to assume they would be anxious to lend their support to a presentation by the leader of a small community in Africa about the history of his community, and about the kinds of projects it undertakes to sustain the community, its infrastructure, its



Editor

Michael Regenstreif

schools and its outreach to other communities in the region.

Hillel didn't hear back from OPIRG-Ottawa in advance of Siriri's visit. Later, though, Hillel received an e-mail from the OPIRG-Ottawa board of directors explaining they had decided not to offer their endorsement of the event or to promote it.

The OPIRG-Ottawa e-mail went on to say they rejected the event because of Hillel's "relationship to apartheid Israel" adding that "Zionist ideology [sic] does not fit within OPIRG's mandate of human right's [sic], social justice."

Leaving aside the nonsense about "Israeli apartheid" – for that, see the article by Dan Seibloss, Hillel Ottawa's Israel advocacy coordinator on page 26 – OPIRG-Ottawa's flapping about Zionist ideology wouldn't have been a surprise had Hillel been asking for their support for an appearance by Benjamin Netanyahu. But other than the fact that

Siriri's first name is 'Israel,' his talk had absolutely nothing to do with Israel or Zionism. One of Hillel's co-sponsors of the event was the Kurdish Youth Association of Canada, hardly a Zionist organization.

By promoting a Jewish-oriented event perfectly in tune with its proclaimed mandate, the evening with Siriri would have provided OPIRG-Ottawa with the perfect opportunity to show that the perception that leftist campus anti-Zionism is not tinged with the anti-Semitism many people perceive. Instead of seizing the opportunity, OPIRG-Ottawa reinforced that perception.

The Community Foundation of Ottawa announced late last month that, because of the current economic situation, the Foundation would, most unfortunately, have no money to distribute to its beneficiary agencies and organizations.

However, Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation (OJCF) president Jack Silverstein has advised the *Bulletin* that OJCF had prepared for the possibility of the current stock market volatility by allocating investments to bonds and by working with insightful investment managers. OJCF will be able to make its distribution to its worthy beneficiary agencies in 2009.

Twice a year, just before Rosh Hashanah and Chanukah, the *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin* publishes what we refer to as our community-wide editions. In addition to our regular subscribers, these two papers go out to everyone in the data base of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa.

If you're a non-subscriber, we hope you'll take a moment and subscribe. The *Bulletin* is the best way to keep up with what's going on in Ottawa's diverse Jewish community and in the wider Jewish world. Every issue also offers you a menu of lively columns covering everything from religious reflections to politics, ethics, recipes, books, music, humour and more. See our ad on page 32 for our various subscription options.

We've also got a special, limited time Chanukah gift subscription offer in effect until January 16, 2009 for subscribers who'd like to purchase a gift subscription for someone else. For that special offer, please call our business manager, Rhoda Saslove-Miller, at 613-798-4696, ext. 256, for details.

Finally, on behalf of all of us at the *Bulletin*, let me take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very Happy Chanukah. We'll be back in 2009 with 19 more issues.

The economic crisis that begat a political crisis that begat a constitutional crisis

Right off the bat, dear reader, I must concede that you have an advantage over me.

Why?

Because you are reading this column sometime in mid-December while I am writing it on December 2.

Damn deadline.

So here's the advantage you have: You know what happened.

And I don't yet.

You know if the Conservative government fell and was replaced by a Liberal/NDP coalition propped up by the Bloc Québécois.

Or if Stephen Harper prorogued Parliament and lived to be prime minister for a little while longer.

Or if we ended up with another election or best-of-five coin flips to decide who got to govern.

Or maybe Governor-General Michaëlle Jean declared "off with their heads" and ended up ruling by decree.

Whatever happened, you know and I don't. Just try not to be too smug about that.

Now, if you were I – and yes I know you're not, what did I just say about being smug? – and you were sitting here on December 2 wondering what was about to happen in Canadian politics, here's what you would think to yourself:

Anything can happen in Canadian politics.



Alan Echenberg

Now that's not a sentiment you bear too often from too many quarters. But think back to December 2, where I am sitting right now, after five days of things happening in Canadian politics that no one would have ever predicted, and with the prospect of another five days or five weeks or five months or so of unpredictable things happening in Canadian politics.

That's what you'd think to yourself.

Here's another interesting thing about December 2, 2008 – my present, your past. It is exactly two years to the day since Stéphane Dion became leader of the Liberal Party of Canada.

And those two years may go down in history as some of the worst two years ever experienced by a leader of a major federal party in Canada.

They seemed to have culminated in a disastrous campaign and election loss this past October, which seemed to have sealed Dion's fate as leader.

Here's what I wrote about that fate in this space last month:

"Sadly for Dion, he will not get a second chance. The political promise that won the hearts of Liberal delegates on December 2, 2006 got trumped by a deficit of political skills ..."

Shows how much I know.

Well, I was probably right on the political skills part. But I may have been wrong on the second chance.

From my perch here on December 2, 2008, it looks as if Dion has about a 50-50 chance of shedding his likely epitaph of "Only the second Liberal leader in history never to become Prime Minister" and gaining one that reads "23rd prime minister of Canada."

With an asterisk, because he will be gone as Liberal leader next May whether or not he is also PM.

And then there is the matter of the 22nd prime minister of Canada.

As I write, Stephen Harper is still in power and is using "every legal means at his disposal" to keep from losing that power. Will he succeed? Well, you may already know the answer to that question.

But, no matter what happens to Harper going forward, this entire incident may have critically wounded his political career, the success of which depended on a reputation

for competent management and serious purpose.

The wound was self-inflicted.

When Harper won a second minority mandate following an election this fall that many thought was unnecessary, his marching orders seemed clear:

Drop the extreme partisan shtick and get down to the serious work of governing this country through a looming economic crisis.

That's what he said he was prepared to do on election night. And his statesmanlike tone continued into the opening of Parliament.

But on the major challenge of the day, the international economic crisis, he dropped the ball. An economic update to set the agenda for dealing with the crisis instead became an opportunity for partisan political gamesmanship, which only succeeded in uniting opposition parties against the government.

So an economic crisis begat a political crisis which begat a constitutional crisis and which may have begat a national unity crisis in both Quebec and the West.

Harper may survive in the short term. He may have survived already by the time you are reading this. But he will come out of this, one way or another, as a weakened leader, his political future uncertain in a way that was unimaginable just a few weeks ago.

Alan Echenberg is *TV Ontario's* Parliamentary bureau chief.

Hillel Academy bustles with extra-curricular activity and innovative programs

By Nicola Hamer
Hillel Academy
communications director
Editor's note: This is the third in a continuing series of articles being prepared by Nicola Hamer on the revitalization of Jewish education in Ottawa.

The feeling of change is in the air at Hillel Academy.

It is not just the incredible activity around Yitzhak Rabin High School's imminent move into their wing of the school building or the creation of the Hillel's new, state-of-the-art laboratory. It's the increased amount of extra-curricular activity and extra courses the students are involved in. It's the feeling that Hillel is developing into a private school that anyone would feel proud to attend.

Everyone involved is working hard to improve the school. In September, we welcomed a new head of school, Donna Palmer-Dodds, who came to us from the Talmud

Torah day school in Vancouver. She has brought many innovative ideas with her and is working hard, adapting them to fit the needs of Ottawa's largest Jewish day school.

Wendy Waxman, vice-principal for General Studies and French, has been very busy over the last few years since coming to Hillel Academy from Turnbull School. She has been spearheading transformative changes in math and language arts, particularly in the French department. Hillel Academy now has both core and extended French programs and has started using a program called AIM (accelerated integrated method) in the younger grades, which teaches the language through gestures and music.

Special education has been another area that has undergone significant developments. The past two years have seen the department grow from a single co-ordi-

nator to a staff of four. Math enrichment is offered starting in Grade 2, as well as Hebrew enrichment.

Sara Breiner, Hillel Academy's vice-principal for Judaic Studies, has been ensuring the expansion of Hebrew enrichment and remediation. As well, she has brought in the award-winning TaL AM program to give the students a strong start in the lower grades.

Remediation in all subjects ensures that all students are able to learn according to their abilities. The development of an Individual Education Plan that is unique to Hillel Academy allows for communication and accountability between teachers and students who require accommodation in the classroom.

Hillel Academy's educators also understand that, to reach true excellence, a school needs to offer more than academics, and great strides have been made in the



Hillel Academy student Tommy Freidlich and drama teacher Barry Karp participate in a trust exercise. Student Meredith Barwin is spotting for Tommy. (Photo: Nicola Hamer)

past two years toward offering students more sports and arts.

Hillel Academy belongs to the Ottawa Private School Athletic Association, which is currently headed by one of our teachers, Stebbane Cinanni. The school places a high value

on team sports, and has teams in soccer, basketball, volleyball and badminton to play tournaments with other schools.

There are also intramural sports teams and clubs, run by the older students. This not only imparts the importance of exercise and teamwork to the students, but helps them develop leadership skills. In fact, students run many of the clubs keeping the children busy at recess and lunch hour.

Thanks to a generous donation from Leon Gluzman (great-grandfather of Hillel students Haley and Noa), Hillel boasts a great drama and music program as well.

Orff music teacher Shannon Eady Smith runs a twice-weekly class cycling through different grades, as well as an Orff music club and a Broadway musical club for those students with greater interest in the subject.

Ottawa School of Speech and Drama teacher Barry Karp also comes to the school twice a week to teach drama classes and to run a very popular drama club for the students at lunchtime.

Hillel Academy is a very busy place, filled with activity and change as it develops into a first-class school, determined to fill the needs of everyone in the Jewish community.



A big miracle happened here: We got a new playground!



Sari and the children at the Beit Elisheva Day Care were lucky to receive a modern playground, but there are thousands of Israeli children who are still waiting for their small miracles. Na'amat Canada is working to provide new equipment for more than 200 daycares, but we need your help to make miracles happen!

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2008 Ottawa Negev Dinner a tremendous success

The 2008 Ottawa Negev Dinner is now history. In terms of the high quality of the event, the full attendance and the money raised by the Jewish National Fund of Ottawa for an important project in Israel, the evening met the mark in every way. It takes the hard work of many people to make a grand evening like this a success and, on behalf of JNF Ottawa, I want thank a few of them.

Our terrific MC for the evening, Rabbi Dr. Reuben Bulka, as always, gave JNF the benefit of his help and advice from the very start and delivered right through to the end. Ottawa JNF greatly appreciates the support of our Patrons of Honour for the Negev Dinner, Carol Greenberg and Shirley Greenberg, and the help and guidance of Lise Cogan, our Special Adviser.

Special thanks go to our Campaign Cabinet, led by Ron Prebogan, for their dedicated work with that of our JNF canvassers, led by Jane and Martin Gordon and Jackie Sitwell, along with our Tribute Project Chairs, Norman Barwin, Norman Lesh, John Greenberg and Jack Smith. Ron and his co-chairs organized an effective, smooth-running campaign that was a complete success. Congratulations and Yasher Koach to Ron, Jeff Polowin, Mike Cullen and Colleen McBride-O'Brien and to their co-chairs, Eric Dean, Melanie Yasinski and Alan Riddell. We also want to thank Diane Crook and Harvey Slack for their work as our Dinner Arrangements Chairs.

Most important, JNF Ottawa salutes the total dedication of our Negev Dinner Honourees, Barbara Crook and Dan Greenberg, for not only making the dinner an event to remember, but also for accomplishing their chosen JNF project in Israel. They are the primary reason that the Barbara Crook and Dan Greenberg Reservoir at Mibmar HaYarden, north of Lake Kinneret, will become a reality.

And finally, we thank our JNF professional staff members, Executive Director for Eastern Canada, Mark Mendelson, our Ottawa JNF Co-ordinator Margo Blustein, as well as Michele Richman and Heather Foley from the Eastern Canada office for their outstanding organization and dedicated work.

Margo is leaving JNF to take up a new position with the Ottawa Heart Institute. We wish her all the best, and thank her for three years of excellent service to JNF. The successful Ottawa Negev Dinners, JNF telethons and other events of recent years have very much depended on her diligent efforts. I know we will miss her. We also welcome Susan Schwartzman, who will be replacing Margo, and wish her all the best of luck.

The ultimate thanks goes to the people of Ottawa, including the members of the Jewish community and the wider community, who attend the Dinner, and to the many businesses and individuals who sponsor tables and advertise each year. You make the Ottawa JNF Negev Dinner possible. We hope to see you all again next year.

On a daily basis you can plant trees for all occasions. An attractive card is sent to the recipient. To order, call the JNF office (613.798.2411).



Holocaust Education Program reaches wide audiences

By Lisa Krug
Shoah Co-ordinator
Jewish Federation
of Ottawa

This year's Ottawa Holocaust Education Program offered a remarkable variety of programs from October 26 to November 23. The Shoah committee worked hard to present activities and speakers that catered to a wide audience from the elementary school level, to survivors and seniors in our community.

"I believe that the diversity of our program this year, particularly the participation by so many partner groups – from public libraries to private bookstores, synagogues, foreign embassies, government representatives and student groups – demonstrated a growing interest in Holocaust education and, more than ever, enabled us to reach a broader audience," says Tohy Herscovitch, Shoah committee co-chair.

The Holocaust must not be forgotten and it is even more vital now that second and third generations be educated so that the loss of six million lives does not just fade into the history books. From the capacity audience



Author Debbie Spring signs a copy of her book for young readers, *The Righteous Smuggler*, at Chapters Pinecrest.

at the launch event with the Sterner family, to the more intimate book launches with stories of resilience and heroism, this message was transmitted.

Collaborations with the Hungarian and Netherlands Embassies ensured that the story of a righteous Hungarian captain, and the fictionalized account of the son of a Dutch fisherman became known, the latter to large audiences of elementary school students.

In collaboration with the

Canadian War Museum, a young Ottawa playwright dramatized his personal account of his family's connection to the displaced persons in Bergen-Belsen. A French priest, Father Patrick Desbois, presented his previously undiscovered horrific findings about the massacres of Ukrainian Jews. Hillel Ottawa conducted a variety of well-attended campus activities including survivor talks and a lecture by Irving Abella on Holocaust resistance in Canada.

Photographer Peter Waiser presented a stunning exhibit of photos he took on the recent March of the Living and Montreal artist Esti Mayer presented her work.

A sombre ceremony on Parliament Hill, with a moving keynote address by David Kilgour, marked the 70th anniversary of Kristallnacht.

As Ottawa survivor David Shentow says when giving talks at schools, "I am not here to entertain you. Please do not applaud." Holocaust education is about relaying important factual information about what transpired during one of the most tragic events in recent history so that future generations will understand and ensure that "never again" means never again.

The Shoah Committee of Ottawa meets on a monthly basis to plan educational and community events related to the Holocaust. We welcome people to the committee. If you are a survivor, second or third generation survivor, or just have an interest in being involved, please contact me at lkrug@jewishottawa.com or 613-798-4696, ext. 253 for more information.

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Lorne Rachlis receives lifetime achievement award

By Diane Koven

Lorne Rachlis, who recently retired as director of education of the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB), has received a lifetime achievement award from the Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization (OCISO) for his work combating racism in schools. Throughout his career, Rachlis made multicultural and anti-racism programs a priority for the school board.

OCISO has been working with immigrants since 1978 and provides a range of settlement services and cultural programs. The agency created the Community Awards of Excellence this year to raise awareness of the contributions made by and for immigrants and presented them at a gala marking its 30th anniversary.

Born in Winnipeg, Rachlis moved to Ottawa with his family when his father began to work for the federal government in 1955. He completed his elementary and secondary education here and graduated from Carleton University where he met his wife, Louise.

"In September of 1964, I bid on her box lunch at a Hillel program on campus," said Rachlis.



Lorne Rachlis has received a lifetime achievement award for his efforts combating racism in schools.

It must have been some lunch. Four years later, they married and moved to Toronto where he pursued his master's degree in chemistry at the University of Toronto. Following graduation, he went to Teachers' College and thus began his 37-year career in education.

From his early years as a science teacher, Rachlis progressed through the ranks to increasingly

senior and challenging positions.

"There are some people who enjoy doing the same thing over and over, but I needed to do something completely different about every five years and my career allowed me to do that," said Rachlis.

"Over a five-year period as night school principal, I turned what had been a small, winter night school into a full-year program, in effect creating one of the first adult day schools in Ontario," he said.

Beginning as principal of the night school at Bathurst Heights Secondary School in North York in 1975, he expanded the evening program from mainly interest courses and English as a second language for immigrants, to include a large selection of credit courses; extended the program through the summer by becoming North York's adult summer school site; and then into the day. Adult students began taking day courses and the program was expanded.

When Rachlis left in 1980, it was the largest adult continuing education program in North York.

"The day school alone had 800 adults enrolled with 800 adoles-

cent students" said Rachlis. "The non-credit day, evening and summer programs had 6,000 registrations annually."

In his position as director of the Avon Maitland District School Board in Stratford, he was instrumental in creating an e-learning distance education centre.

During the mid-1990s, Rachlis created a Grade 11 archaeology course in Ottawa, which allowed students to take a senior level credit for their diploma while spending three weeks in Israel. They spent a week on a kibbutz and then participated in archaeological digs. Although the course was popular, the cost contributed to its demise.

Rachlis received an award, among several others, for creating and implementing the Ottawa Board of Education's anti-racism and ethno-cultural equity education policy.

"The Ministry of Education used our processes and plans as an example to other school boards," he said.

During his term as director of the OCDSB, Rachlis has oversaw a number of significant initiatives. The Education Foundation of Ot-

tawa, the Outdoor Education Council and the Ottawa Student Transportation Authority were all created during his tenure.

The only Jewish public school director in Ontario, Rachlis credits his religion for helping him grapple with complex decisions.

"My faith is at the core of my being and it is through that moral centre that I filtered my actions as a son, a husband, a father and an employer."

A long-time member of Temple Israel, Rachlis served two terms on its board of directors and sat on the education committee. The three Rachlis children, all now young adults, Josh, Diana and Naomi, all attended Temple Israel Religious School and had their Bar and Bat Mitzvahs there.

Rachlis is currently sitting on the Jewish Federation of Ottawa committee that is helping Hillel Academy and Yitzhak Rabin High School work together on one campus.

Though Rachlis has retired from the school board, he has not left the field of education and is an invited professor at the University of Ottawa, teaching two courses in the master of education program.



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Changing of the guard at the Ottawa Jewish Archives

By Dawn Logan
Ottawa Jewish Archives

On Monday, December 22, I'll be retiring as archivist of the Ottawa Jewish Archives (OJA) and Laurie Dougherty, assistant archivist for the past 18 months, will become the new archivist.

We'll be holding an open house at the OJA that day from 11:00 am on and invite all our patrons, supporters, researchers and anyone interested in Ottawa Jewish history to stop by and visit.

Since joining the OJA staff, Laurie has put her stamp on our archival operations. She arrived with considerable experience in the small, archival Ontario world and most recently has been in charge of the Amprior & McNab/Braeside Archives. Laurie and her family attend Temple Israel and she knows Ottawa's Jewish community well.

Laurie has relied on a large volunteer base in her Amprior position, and the volunteer positions at the OJA are being enlarged. For a short period, we have Erin Isaacs, who has a master's degree in archival and information studies from the University of British Columbia, working on a collection. Also, Evan Kennedy from the University of Ottawa's Community Service Learning has been doing a data entry project all fall.

The OJA has come a long way since starting in a closet in the old Jewish Community Centre on Chapel Street. First of all, the archives founder, Shirley Berman, persevered. She had the support of the Ottawa Jewish



Archivists Laurie Dougherty (left) and Dawn Logan in the Ottawa Jewish Archives. (OJB Photo: Michael Regenstreif)

Historical Society and went from strength to strength. By the time the OJA moved to our current home in the Soloway Jewish Community Centre, the collections had increased to fill a small vault. In Shirley's time there was a seamless thread between the archives and the historical society.

However, the move to the west end of Ottawa also heralded the very important step of the OJA coming under the umbrella of the Jewish Community Council of Ottawa/Vaada Ha'Ir, now the Jewish Federation of Ottawa.

The support of the entire Jewish community has been essential to the success of the archives. Of course, the Historical Society continued to support the OJA in various ways, including the all-important digitization of the *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin*. That procedure is now executed in house. Through their largess, the OJA has also indulged in a few extras.

The biggest project ever

undertaken by the Historical Society is "the book." The idea germinated with the late Lawrence Freedman and has been admirably carried forward by John Holzman, the current Historical Society president. Anna Bilsky, the book co-ordinator, anticipates the publication of *A Common Thread: A History of the Jews of Ottawa* will be in the spring and gives "enormous credit to the Ottawa Jewish Archives."

There have been other successes during the past 10 years. With a Canadian Council of Archives grant, more than 100 of our collections can now be accessed from your home computer on Ontario's Archival Information Network, known as *Archeion*.

Many of the OJA photographs have been identified and scanned and are among the most popular aspects of the collections. Anniversaries require visual images and there have been many requests, including for the recent 10-year anniversary of the Soloway Jewish Community Centre, the 36th anniversary video of the Women's Division of the Annual Campaign and the video presenta-

tion of Congregation Beth Shalom's 50th anniversary celebration. The credits for these productions are often in small print with the extensive input of the archives staff quite out of proportion to the minuscule size of the print.

The November issue of *Ottawa Magazine* featured Shawna Wagman's wonderful article, *Market Forces*, which captured the spirit of the Byward Market in the 1930s. We look forward to co-operating with her on future projects.

The OJA has made every effort to collect records from Jewish war veterans. Our Remembrance Day tributes, in the form of exhibitions, have been paid to Nursing Sister Freda (Swedlove) Lithwick, Flying Officer Lawrence "Duke" Abelson, Maccabean Athletic Club members and, this year, the AZA veterans.

The OJA has many more stories to share, more collections to gather and challenges to meet. That is what makes our institution so vital

to the Ottawa Jewish community. Be sure to come and visit on December 22. The Ottawa Jewish Archives are

located within the Greenberg Families Library at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre.

Archivist looks forward to a busy retirement

"I spend all my time looking backwards," said Dawn Logan about her job as the Ottawa Jewish Archives archivist, a position from which she'll retire on December 22.

Dawn came to the OJA after a career as a librarian, first at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland, and then at the Export Development Corporation, a federal crown corporation in Ottawa.

While working at the Export Development Corporation in the early-1990s, Dawn took a course on archiving at Algonquin College through which she came into contact with OJA founding archivist Shirley Berman. After working part time as Shirley's assistant, Dawn became archivist when the OJA founder retired.

"My mission has been to organize our collections and establish systems that should hold up in the future," she told the *Bulletin* as she prepared for retirement.

It promises to be a busy retirement. Long a docent at the National Gallery, Dawn plans to "beef up my art education" and she'll be delivering a talk on the artwork of railway magnate Sir William Van Horne at the National Gallery on February 5. She'll repeat the talk on February 12. She's also planning further research projects on Van Horne as well as on the early pioneers of the Kawartha Lakes region.

— Michael Regenstreif



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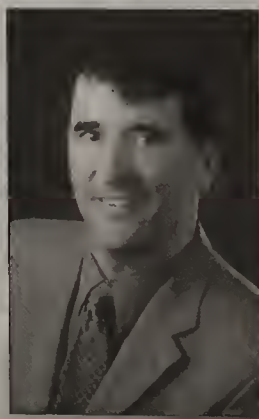
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Controversial cases, community service drive Ottawa lawyer Lawrence Greenspon

By Benita Baker

Mohammad Momin Khawaja, the first man charged under Canada's anti-terrorism act was defended by Ottawa lawyer Lawrence Greenspon. So what's a good Jewish boy doing defending terrorists who pledge to destroy Israel? His job – no matter how controversial it may be.

As a criminal and human rights lawyer for 28 years, Greenspon is no stranger to controversy. Defending accused terrorists, rapists and murderers is controversial by its very nature. But Greenspon pushes the envelope even further. Some of his cases have been precedent-setting, touching on contentious issues such as the rights of an unborn fetus, assisted suicide and the rape shield law.

Never one to shy away from the public eye, Greenspon understands the power of the media. While it may be commonplace in the U.S., lawyers in Canada rarely discuss ongoing cases publicly. Yet, during the Khawaja trial, Greenspon met regularly with the media to keep the public informed.

As Canada and the world closely followed the progress of the trial, Greenspon became somewhat of a celebrity himself, addressing media scrums and being featured in



Lawrence Greenspon

television news interviews.

Greenspon courted additional dissension during the trial by challenging the constitutionality of some clauses of the Anti-terrorism Act. He convinced the presiding judge that the act's definition of a terrorist act was unconstitutional because it gave police the right to investigate people based on their religious, ideological or political beliefs.

"This is a repeat of how we dealt with the Japanese, Chinese, Sikhs, Jews and the FLQ," said Greenspon. "Canada has a history of sacrificing the rights of groups and then apologizing later."

The judge agreed with him and struck down the clause, which resulted in a revised definition of terrorism.

Whereas debate tends to follow his legal career, there is nothing questionable about Greenspon's tireless commitment to community service. He has served in a leadership position for more than 40 organizations, including 13 years on the board of the Jewish Community Centre where he served as president from 1991 to 1993.

Some of the diverse causes that have benefitted from Greenspon's time and energy over the past three decades include support for the arts, sports, civil liberties, children's well-being, Holocaust education, cancer research and the homeless.

When does he find the time for his legal practice? That's the question asked by Michael Allen, president and CEO of the United Way, who has worked closely with

Greenspon for many years.

"He brings a number of qualities to his volunteer work, in particular, his thoughtfulness and his energy," said Allen. "He is so totally committed to serving the community. When does he work?"

Greenspon has become a sought-after charity auctioneer, presiding over fundraising events for organizations such as Scouts Canada, the Snow Suit Fund, the Ottawa Symphony Orchestra, Watercan and Ronald MacDonald House. Since he began auctioneering in 1981 with a fundraising event for REACH (Resource Educational and Advocacy for the Handicapped), he has helped to raise millions of dollars. The annual REACH auction alone has brought more than \$1 million to the organization since its inception.

He currently performs 25 to 30 auctions a year and has even been flown to Barbados to act as auctioneer for Caribbean Promise, an organization building youth centres for disadvantaged kids in the Caribbean.

"It's fun and a great opportunity to do something for the community," said Greenspon. "You get to meet great people and be creative. I do

things outside the box. Certainly what I couldn't do in the courtroom."

He is in such demand as a charity auctioneer that he is already booked for events in October and November of next year.

Fourteen organizations, including Big Brothers Big Sisters and the Ottawa Food Bank, have presented him with community service awards. This year, he was named Community Builder of the Year by United Way.

Born and raised in Montreal, Greenspon transferred from McGill to attend University of Ottawa Law School. His stepfather, a Holocaust survivor, instilled in him an early passion for civil rights.

"I learned from him the importance of the balance between state power and individual rights," said Greenspon.

As for defending a terrorist, Greenspon has no regrets. Despite his controversial client, the message he got from the Jewish community was supportive. "Seeking justice is a part of our heritage," he said. "Jews understand the importance of being fairly represented at a fair trial. Even the least liked person deserves fairness."

Mailbag

Machon Sarah High School

My name is Sarah (Friedman) Gross, and my family lived in Ottawa from 1988 to 94 while my father, Daniel Friedman, was the Chazan Shaini at Agudath Israel Congregation. In 1990, my parents and a few other families got together with the principal of Ottawa Torah Institute and founded Machon Sarah High School for girls. I attended Machon Sarah for my entire high school career and graduated with the first graduating class in 1994. I then attended Stern College for Women and graduated with a degree in Biology in 1998. I subsequently earned a PhD in Biomedical Research from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in 2004. Currently, I am a professor of Biology in Farmingdale State College in New York.

The education I received from the outstanding teachers at Machon Sarah fostered my love of biology and laid a foundation that allowed me to pursue my career path. Both the secular and the religious education I received at Machon Sarah were exceptional. Please be aware that there were options for Jewish high school education in Ottawa before Yitzhak Rabin High School opened.

Sarah T. Gross
Assistant Professor, Farmingdale State College
Farmingdale, NY

Ugandan Jewish leader makes visit to Ottawa

By Liana Shlien

Israel Siriri, chair of the Abayudaya community of Ugandan Jews, was in Ottawa November 20 and spoke about his community at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre during a North American speaking tour organized by Kulanu.

The Abayudaya community was founded in 1919 by Semei Kakungulu, a military commander, out of a desire to follow the Old Testament. It soon grew to 3,000 followers and Jewish traders visiting Uganda in the 1920s helped teach the Abayudaya about such practices and beliefs of Judaism as keeping kosher, circumcising boys and observing the Sabbath.

Kakungulu died in 1928 and the community began to decline, primarily because there was no public education in Uganda until the 1960s and the only schools were just for Christians. Many of the Abayudaya converted to Christianity so that their children could have an education.

During the 1970s, Ugandan president Idi Amin forbade the practice of Judaism.

"Our members would practice Judaism in secret, but it was very difficult. We had to go to river banks to pray," Siriri said.

In 1980, when the of the Abayudaya community was down to just 300 people, freedom of religion was restored to Uganda after Milton Obote, who had been deposed by Amin, regained the presidency. This led to a renewal of the Abayudaya community.

Kulanu, an organization that reaches out to dispersed Jewish communities around the world, came to Uganda in 1995 and established contacts between the Abayudaya and the American Jewish world.

"We now have torah scrolls, an ordained rabbi, schools, so many *siddurim*, *chumashim*, synagogues and all that stuff. The com-



Israel Siriri, chair of the Abayudaya Jewish community of Uganda, speaking at the SJCC.

(OJB Photo: Liana Shlien)

munity has now gained strength," Siriri said.

The Abayudaya community now numbers about 1,000 people from among Uganda's total population of 31 million.

Siriri presented a slideshow depicting the everyday life of the Abayudaya people and their achievements, like the first wedding held in 2002, with stalks of sugarcane holding up the *chuppah*. He explained how the sugarcane is then cut and eaten so that the marriage will be sweet.

The Abayudaya live in five villages mostly near Mbale in southeastern Uganda. Nabugoye is the main Abayudaya village.

Although the Abayudaya have a synagogue in each of their villages, there is only one trained rabbi. Conservative Rabbi Gershom Sizomu is a Ugandan who graduated from the Zeigler School of Rabbinic Studies at the American Jewish University in Los Angeles this year and returned to serve his community. Services are held in Luganda, the local language, and Hebrew.

There is a Jewish prima-

ry school and high school in Nabugoye, with a dormitory to serve students from other villages. A new science lab was built with funds raised by Canadians.

Donations to the Kulanu organization support the schools and synagogues, as well as other projects such as the Mirembe Kawomera Coffee Project involving Jewish, Muslim and Christian farmers, as well as the Jewish Life in Uganda Wildlife Safari and Mitzvah Tour whose revenue helps fund community development, a child hunger project, and bringing in running water and electricity.

Siriri also sang several traditional Jewish songs, such as *Lecha Dodi*, whose familiar Hebrew lyrics were set to different Ugandan melodies.

A CD, *Abayudaya: Music from the Jewish People of Uganda*, was released by Smithsonian Folkways in 2003 and is available at tinyurl.com/3lewbm.

The event with Siriri was sponsored by Hillel Ottawa, Chabad Student Network and the Kurdish Youth Association of Canada.

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Ezra Campaign: the Jewish community's emergency relief fund

By Jeremy Miller
Jewish Family Services

Last winter was Ottawa's most challenging in recent memory and the long and harsh season saw many members of the Jewish community in difficult situations.

"As the winter continued into what should have been spring, many of our clients were forced to make a choice, literally, between food, heat and rent," said Sarah Caspi, head of the Jewish Family Services (JFS) Tikvah Unit, which assists low-income Jewish individuals and families in Ottawa.

"It is because of people's generosity and gifts to the Ezra Fund that we were able to help all those who came through our doors."

The Ezra Fund of JFS is the emergency relief fund for the Jewish community of Ottawa and has helped people caught in difficult circumstances.

"The Ezra Fund also allowed us to help close to 20 women leave an abusive relationship during the last three years by paying the first and last month's rent in order to secure permanent and safe housing," added Caspi.

"Jewish Family Services has provided more than \$350,000 in direct financial relief to our clients and the Ezra Campaign is an important part of our ability to meet the needs of those who come to us in financial crisis."

"The Ezra Fund is intended for those in our community who have unexpectedly found themselves in a financial crisis," said Andrea Gardner, JFS assistant executive director. "As we have seen in the past few months with the world wide economic downturn and the possible Canadian recession ahead, we never know when we will find ourselves in crisis. It is important for the Jewish community to have an emergency fund. That is why JFS created the Ezra Fund."

Mark Zarecki, JFS executive director, is quite concerned over the economic forecast and the trickle down effect it will have on Jewish Family Services.

"We are well aware of the current economic situation," Zarecki said. "We know that, when the economy is down, there is more demand placed on social service agencies. I know JFS will be pushed to the max in trying to fill the needs of our clients. I also know that JFS will be able to continue to meet these needs."

"However, we cannot do this alone. I



A client receives a bag of fresh fruit and vegetables at Miriam's Well, the JFS monthly fresh fruit and vegetable distribution.
(Photo: Jeremy Miller)

urge the community to help us keep our pledge of 'not turning away any Jewish person in need' this year."

To give to the Ezra Campaign, contact JFS at 613-722-2225 or donate on-line at jfsottawa.com.

Getting to the 0.7 point by doing our share

By Danielle Dugas

Adath Shalom Congregation

Adath Shalom Congregation came into existence some 30 years ago as a Conservative congregation whose members wanted a more inclusive community in which women and

men would count equally, and participate equally. Among the objectives listed in the Adath Shalom constitution is "to encourage its members to become involved in community responsibilities and action including the obligations of *tzedakah*."

Over the years, Adath Shalom's Social Action Committee has become involved in many efforts. For two winters in a row, one of our members travelling to Cuba delivered large amounts of medicines collected by our congregants to the Jewish community of Santiago de Cuba. One winter, we did a pyjama collection for women in a shelter where they arrive empty handed at any time of the day or night and, this winter, we are putting our efforts into a collection for a Northern Ontario community where one of our younger members is working for two years.

We have established, and maintained for five years, a garden at a women's shelter. Last month, we began helping weekly at a food bank and soup kitchen and will continue through the winter until the gardening resumes in the spring.

Adath Shalom also has a Social Action Fund. Because we have found the Stephen Lewis Foundation to be a source of inspiration, the Social Action Committee has, in the past, designated this charity as recipient of the fund.

Stephen Lewis also champions a movement called Make Poverty History. According to the website, makepovertyhistory.ca, "At the start of the 21st century, 1.2 billion people live in abject poverty, most of them women. More than 800 million people go to bed hungry and 50,000 people die every day from poverty related causes. It does not have to be this way."

Make Poverty History has endorsed the idea that developed countries each pledge 0.7 per cent of their gross national income for relief to communities in need. This is based on a

1969 proposal of the Pearson Commission, an international commission headed by former Canadian prime minister Lester Pearson. The Pearson proposal was adopted as a goal by the World Bank, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development and the United Nations General Assembly.

Despite the recommendation coming from a former Canadian prime minister, Canada has never met the 0.7 per cent target. In a small way, that failure has spurred our committee to challenge our congregation to do a little something to make up for that shame.

In June, we proposed that our congregation budget include a *tzedakah* line of 0.7 per cent of our general revenue. The proposal was approved at our annual general meeting. This action confirmed that our founding members had laid the bases solidly. *Tzedakah* remains a central concern and ongoing objective of Adath Shalom and will, hopefully, become a permanent commitment. The money was directed to the Ezra Fund at Jewish Family Services.

While the enormous needs, spelled out vividly in the daily news, draw a daunting picture and a seemingly insurmountable challenge to our *tzedakah* motion, we are, nevertheless, not silenced. Each of us has a voice, and together the collective voice is stronger and, hopefully, better heard. As the prophet Isaiah said, "Do not turn away from people in need."

Adath Shalom's Social Action Committee hopes you will join your voice to Isaiah's, ours and others in giving support to Make Poverty History. At our prompting, United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism-Canadian Region also has endorsed Make Poverty History.

We urge you to join our effort. Consider having your congregation, organization or business revise its budget in a manner similar to ours by supporting the Make Poverty History movement and by telling them how you do it.

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Wheels of Love: the ultimate way to see Israel

By Steven Kimmel

Touring Israel is something that I encourage everyone to do as often as possible and in as many ways as possible. But I now know the ultimate way to see the country while enjoying some good food, the company of good friends and the loss of few pounds as well as helping a much-needed institution.

That ultimate way to see Israel is by participating in the Alyn Hospital *Wheels of Love International Bike Ride*.

From November 9 to 13, ten of us from Ottawa participated in the ninth annual ride. We covered close to 500 kilometres of Israel, travelling by bicycle from Jerusalem to Beer Sheva, up to Arad, down to Masada and back up to Jerusalem.

Nearly 400 riders from all over the world rode together for five days, raising more than \$2.5 million to support the Alyn Hospital in Jerusalem, Israel's premiere

rehabilitation centre for physically challenged and disabled babies, children and young adults.

"The ride was a fantastic opportunity to challenge our physical and mental endurance while being supportive in a team effort," said Eric Appotive. "Sharing that experience in Israel made it far more meaningful."

In order to be able to withstand the extreme uphill climbs and to control our bikes and bodies on the huge descents down the hairpin turns, all the riders needed to start training months in advance.

However, "no amount of training could have prepared us for what we experienced on an emotional level," said Debi Zaret. "From the challenge of the ride – who said the desert was flat? – to the amazingly diverse group of riders and volunteers we met," each day brought with it new adventures.

"Riding this many kilometre-



Ottawa riders last month at the Alyn Hospital *Wheels of Love International Bike Ride* in Israel (left to right): Margo Sherman, Neil Zaret, Debi Zaret, Sharon Appotive, Eric Appotive and Steven Kimmel; (missing) Mark Spergel, Richard Davies, Percy Ostroff and Roger Greenberg. (Photo: Michael Walsh)

tres through the winding roads was strenuous but rewarding," said Percy Ostroff. "An almost spiritual experience of long distance road riding in the breathtaking Negev and Judean deserts has left me wanting to do this ride again next year."

The fully supported ride has four options to choose from: the Challenge Ride

(500 kilometres for very experienced riders); the on road group (500 kilometres); the touring group (approximately 50 kilometres per day plus touring); and the off road group (for the wild ones).

"Probably the best aspect of the whole ride was the people – the fellow riders in all the groups, and the great and dedicated volunteers. *Wheels*

of Love is an experience I'd highly recommend," said Richard Davies, the sole Challenge rider from Ottawa.

The last day was probably the most difficult for all as we climbed and climbed up the road to Jerusalem. The route was lined with cheering people – and a few irate drivers who had to wait while the roads were blocked for

us.

As we entered the Alyn Hospital grounds, all I could think of was what a *win-win* this was. Get in shape, travel to Israel, see the country and raise much-needed funds for a unique institution.

"The Alyn Ride was an opportunity of a lifetime," said Neil Zaret. "As the kids at the hospital put medals around our necks at the completion of the ride, there was no doubt in our minds who the real champions were!"

Sharon Appotive asks, "What are you waiting for? Meeting remarkable people from around the world, all sharing a common goal, enhanced this unforgettable experience."

If you're interested in this kind of challenge *Wheels of Love* 2009 is now less than a year away!

Visit alynride.org for more information about the *Wheels of Love* ride. Or feel free to call me at 613-226-3830, ext. 111.

Canada House opens at Tel-Hai College in Upper Galilee

By Jeff Bradshaw

Senior Director of Planning
Jewish Federation of Ottawa

New beginnings were on my mind while I was standing in the freshly constructed Canada House at Tel-Hai College in Northern Israel last month. This state-of-the-art facility overlooks the Hula Valley, with very impressive vistas that will undoubtedly distract a few of the students who will be studying here.

For an area that's had more than its share of difficult times recently, this new campus represents a fresh beginning for Israel's northernmost region. As well, the area will benefit from the opening of Meitav Technological Incubator's new facility near the campus.

And the area will become even more of a research centre when MIGAL, the Galilee Technology Center, opens on campus in the near future. The marriage of these growth engines for the region is expected to attract a new generation to the north of Israel, adding economic strength to the physical beauty of the Galilee.

It is fitting that the new building, which houses various faculties and a theatre, is named Canada House. That it was a labour of



Canada House was opened last month at Tel-Hai College, Israel's northernmost campus.

love for people from many Canadian Jewish communities that made Canada House possible was evident at the ribbon-cutting ceremony when representatives of

Jewish communities from Atlantic Canada, Winnipeg, Calgary and Vancouver – as well as Ottawa's own Ron Weiss – ceremonially opened the new facility. This truly

was a coast-to-coast undertaking and a national project in which we can all take enormous pride.

Israeli President Shimon Peres was on hand to open Canada

House. It was his vision some years ago, as minister responsible for the Galilee, to create the *Development Triangle*, in which academia, industry and research coalesce to strengthen the social and economic base of the region.

This official opening represented the first stage of a longer-term project which will include new structures for the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, and a new library, serving not only Tel-Hai College, but the whole Upper Galilee region.

When completed in about a decade, the country's northernmost campus will occupy an area of 40,000 square metres and is expected to represent an investment of approximately \$100 million.

The connection between Canada and our P2K partners in the Galilee is more than a friendship of convenience. In the years since our connection began, this region has borne the brunt of Israel's 2006 war with Hezbollah and the ongoing challenges of living on the frontier with Lebanon. In both the darkest days of the war, and the celebratory days of opening a new campus, our friendship has been a light for the residents of the region.

Menorah-lighting, balloons, magic at OTC Chanukah celebration

By Rabbi Yisroel Simion
Ottawa Torah Center
Chabad

Ottawa Torah Center Chabad (OTC) has organized a family Chanukah celebration on Monday, December 22, 6 pm, at Ben Franklin Place, 101 Centre-

pointe Drive, that will include entertainment and a public menorah-lighting ceremony attended by dignitaries and community leaders.

"The public menorah displayed at a city building is a powerful symbol of the reli-

gious freedom we enjoy today in Canada," explains Rabbi Menachem Blum of OTC. "That is precisely what we commemorate on Chanukah. The participation of city officials in this celebration is very meaningful to our Jewish community as we

celebrate this concept of religious freedom in the west-end of our city."

For the past 10 years, public dignitaries, community leaders and mayors of Nepean and Ottawa have attended the ceremony. Mayor Larry O'Brien is scheduled to participate again this year.

This year's celebration will feature two shows. Brad Wood, balloon-twister extraordinaire, will delight with incredible and unique balloon creations that are sure to surprise and amaze everyone. The highlight of his show will be the creation a giant balloon menorah. His show involves audience volunteers and non-stop humour, making it a fun and entertaining experience.

The second show is the



Rabbi Menachem Blum lights the public Chanukah menorah last year at Ben Franklin Place.

Magic of Diego. Diego's interactive family magic show captivates with illusions you will not soon forget as the magic dazzles you and he leaves you rolling in the

aisles with comedy and lots of audience participation.

Admission is free and the entire community is invited. Visit ottawatorahcenter.com for more information.

ORH to hold Chanukah party

By Heni Nadel

Ottawa Reconstructionist Havurah

The Ottawa Reconstructionist Havurah (ORH) will celebrate its annual Chanukah party in Scotton Hall of the Glebe Community Centre on Sunday, December 21, from 2:30 to 6:30 pm. A highlight of the event will be a large table filled with the *chanukiot* brought by all of the families attending and lit with the appropriate number of candles.

Scotton Hall is a large, yet welcoming room with plenty of space for the ORH Band to lead the singing of Chanukah songs and for Phil Kretzmar to continue our custom of teaching Israeli dances to both adults and children.

There will be several stations for children's activities including Chanukah story reading, cookie decorating, other crafts and the playing of dreidels with piles of peanuts in their shells.

The celebration ends with the eating of latkes fully dressed with a choice of sour cream and/or apple sauce plus lots of homemade salads and desserts. Of course, there will be dreidels and chocolate Chanukah gelt for the kids.

This Chanukah celebration is open to the community for a nominal fee of \$25 per family.

Contact ORH at 613-239-4988 or info@orh.ca for reservations or more information.

Hillel Lodge Auxiliary tea honours Sarah Swedler

By Pat Neuman
for the Auxiliary
of Hillel Lodge

Sarah Swedler was honoured October 26 when the Auxiliary of Hillel Lodge held its Annual Tea in the lobby of the Bess and Moe Greenberg Family Hillel Lodge. Sarah, who served 10 years as president of the Auxiliary, has spent countless hours volunteering, has been an exemplary role model in the community and has been responsible for many events and activities at Hillel Lodge over the years.

In addition to Hillel Lodge, Sarah is also involved with many other community organizations and institutions. Her efforts have been recognized by, among others, such diverse groups as Magen David Adom, the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation and the Kidney Foundation and its organ donation committee.

At Hillel Lodge, Sarah has initiated a number of ideas that have enriched the facility and made countless lives more sat-



Hillel Lodge Auxiliary Tea honoree Sarah Swedler (left) is presented with a plaque by Sharon Finn, tea committee co-convenor (centre), and Naomi Lipsky Carcowe, Hillel Lodge Auxiliary president.

isfying. Her smile and enthusiasm are a welcome sight for the staff and residents alike. Whether it is a Chanukah celebration, a fundraiser or just being there to help out, Sarah brightens up every occasion.

Perhaps that is why the turnout was so great for this year's tea. The many guests and Hillel Lodge residents attending had the pleasure of enjoying tasty treats and perusing the many beautiful items

on display in the Auxiliary Gift Shoppe. Visitors to the Gift Shoppe from other cities have raved about the unique merchandise and great values available there. The Gift Shoppe recently added a collection of new items for the Chanukah season.

Money raised by the Auxiliary supports a wide variety of activities and purchases designed to enrich the lives of the Hillel Lodge residents.



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Maccabiah Games afford teen athletes a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity

By Ethan Calof

Many see the Maccabiah Games, to be held in Israel next July, solely as an athletic competition. However, they also act as a means to heighten the participants' appreciation of Israel and Judaism. Nine local teens, Ottawa's largest-ever delegation, are scheduled to compete in the games, which are held every four years.

The eager anticipation was palpable among the athletes when they first heard they had the opportunity to go to the games.

"I was really happy. Really, really happy," said Naomi Kirshenblatt, who is representing Canada in swimming.

The athletes' village at the games affords our youth a perfect opportunity to develop friendships and network with their Jewish peers from around the world. Competitors will mingle with the more than 8,000 other



Nine Ottawa teens are set to participate in the Maccabiah Games in July (front row, left to right): Naomi Kirshenblatt, Mitchell Huberman, Adam Wolff; (back row) Jeremy Izso, Michael Calof, Jonathan Cohen, Spencer Asch-Jones; (missing) Eytan Fisman and Russell Garber.

Jewish athletes from more than 50 countries.

"It is going to be pretty big to have the opportunity to connect," said baseball player Adam Wolff.

However, the chief opportunity that will arise from participating in the

Maccabiah games is the opportunity to visit Israel, the Jewish homeland. This fact is not lost on the athletes, especially those who have yet to visit Israel.

"It's been a dream of mine," soccer player Michael Calof simply said.

Other Ottawa competitors headed to the Maccabiah Games include soccer players Spencer Asch-Jones, Jonathan Cohen and Mitchell Huberman; rugby players Eytan Fisman and Russell Garber, and baseball player Jeremy Izso.

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AJA 50+ held another successful Bridge and Mah-Jongg Fundraiser October 29 at Agudath Israel Congregation. More than 140 people came to play bridge and mah-jongg, to shmooze with friends and acquaintances and enjoy a delicious lunch served by Creative Kosher Catering. Proceeds from the fundraiser support a wide range of programs and activities for seniors. The event was organized by a devoted committee, chaired by Ruth Levitan. Planning for next years' fundraiser is already underway.

The committee (front row, left to right): Elaine Wolfish, Ruth Levitan, Adriene Diner, Sharon Mintz; (back row) Norman Wolfish, Jane James, Flo Morgan, Ray Goldstein, Doris Bronstein, Rhoda Bleviss, Pat Neuman, Fern Hershfield, Sandra Levinson, Ron Levitan.



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From hockey in Metulla, to the GA in Jerusalem and more

By Mitch Miller

So much has happened over the past 11 days (this article was written on November 25). The day after the Ottawa Celebrity Sports Dinner, I flew to Israel to participate in the 2008 General Assembly of United Jewish Communities (GA). I left two days early so that I could play some hockey at the Canada Centre in Metulla.

After arriving on an El Al flight from Toronto, I waited with the other passengers for my luggage and the oversized bag containing hockey sticks for the people I'd be playing with in a few hours.

From the airport, I took a taxi to the train station in Tel Aviv to catch the *hockey bus* going to Metulla. Luckily, I recognized a guy carrying the Israeli national team hockey bag and followed him on the bus.

Perfect. Until I realized that the comedy on the video screen was in Russian and that most of the people on the bus were speaking either Russian or Hebrew. Thank-

fully, within the first half-hour of our three-hour drive, two English-speaking 15-year-olds found me and we talked hockey all the way to the Canada Centre.

We arrived at 6:45 pm and our game was scheduled to begin at 7:00. It was my first time playing hockey with Russian coaches and not understanding most of what my team mates were saying. But it was a great experience because I played my first game in an Israeli hockey league.

After the game, I stayed with Oren Zamir, a friend who plays for the Israeli National Hockey Team. My teammates went out for pizza and then had a three-hour drive back to Tel Aviv. Imagine driving from Ottawa to Belleville, playing a game of hockey and then heading back to Ottawa every week; two or three times a week, if your team is lucky enough to afford practice ice time.

The hospitality shown to me by Oren's family is typical of Israelis. There was more



Israeli hockey player Oren Zamir (left) and Mitch Miller on a hilltop overlooking Metulla. The area just beyond the town is on the other side of the border with Lebanon. (Photo: Courtesy of Mitch Miller)

food than any of us could have eaten. It was Shabbat, so the head of the house said the *Kiddush* and *Hamotzi* and I felt very much at home. The youngest member of the

family, Sharon, is in Grade 2 at the Beit Sefer Hanadiv in Metulla, which is twinned with Hillel Academy where both of my daughters are students.

In the morning, Oren took me on a four-hour ATV ride through the mountains near Metulla. I was within five metres of the border with Lebanon. On the other side, you could see the new construction of beautiful homes and a tour bus going by. It was hard to imagine that people on the other side of the border would be interested in bostilities when they were building and touring.

We rode the ATVs through Kiryat Shmona and the Hula Valley and back up to Metulla. It was 25 degrees

outside when I ate dinner and watched the sun set with a beautiful view of Lebanon from the Zamir home.

It was time to travel to Jerusalem as the GA was opening the next morning.

The advantage of visiting Israel on a mission or as part of a conference is that you have the opportunity to see and visit what most tourists would not.

On the first day, I visited a community centre in a rough area of Jerusalem where people were teaching the residents how to use computers so that they could apply for jobs. And, if the residents couldn't travel to the community centre, the centre would bring the computers to the neighbourhoods. They use

laptops with cellular connections for internet access. This centre helps people of all backgrounds: Jewish, Muslim, Christian, male and female. They do not discriminate.

During the GA, we were addressed by Ehud Olmert, Shimon Peres, Benjamin Netanyahu, Tzipi Livni and others. There were seminars about how to engage those in our community who are not active, what Israel is doing to brand itself differently, how Israel will deal with the economic challenges facing the world today, and many other topics.

We also had the opportunity to meet with many of the agencies that benefit from the generosity of Jewish communities in the Diaspora.

One of the most fascinating people I met was Gal Lusky who operates Israel Flying Aid. She and her group of volunteers take time off from work to fly where help is needed. They were on the ground giving aid after Hurricane Katrina, the floods in Georgia, the earthquakes in Indonesia, the genocide in Darfur, the tsunami in Sri Lanka and many more. They have gone where Israelis and Jews are not welcome. When you have a chance, Google "Israel Flying Aid" and learn

(Continued on page 21)

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Chanukah Sameach!

To My Friends in
Ottawa's Jewish Community

JOHN
BAIRD
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
Getting Things Done
for Ottawa West-Napan



Arabic preschool in Laqiya reminds me of Ganon in Ottawa

(Continued from page 20)
more about what they have done and continue to do in the name of *Tikkun Olam*.

Again, the advantage of attending a conference or joining a mission is seeing what most will not see. In one day, I boarded a bus at 8:00 am to visit Laqiya, a Bedouin village in the Negev supported by the Jewish community of San Francisco. We visited the mothering centre where women could learn the basics of taking care of their newborns.

They were learning about everything from diapers and creams to infant massage and about the common diseases found in infants in that area. It is one of the only places where these women are permitted to go unattended by their husbands.

From there, we visited a preschool in Laqiya where they greeted us as family. The children sang for us and put on a little play. We spoke with the school superintendent, a young Bedouin woman, who explained how support from Jewish communities abroad has enabled them to provide the children of Laqiya with the tools they need to begin learning.

The pictures used to encourage the children to learn the alphabet and numbers reminded me of my daughters' experiences at Ganon – except here it was in Arabic.

For lunch, we visited a career centre in Beer Sheva. We met young people who

had just completed their army service, new immigrants to Israel and others who needed help in choosing and pursuing a career path.

If they choose to further their education, how do they apply for scholarships? If they choose a career, how do they prepare for the potential interviews?

Again, this centre was supported by Jewish communities from outside of Israel and they did not discriminate based on religion, colour or sex. If you need their service, they are there for you.

Then we visited Kfar Azza, a kibbutz within one kilometre of the border with Gaza and within three kilometres of the city of Gaza. Here we exited the tour bus and were told what to do if rockets start to fall. Basically, they told us where the fortified bomb shelters were.

As we were being told what to do, children were bicycling by and playing games on the grass. Life goes on in Kfar Azza.

We learned how the kibbutz movement is changing and how many people who have spent their entire lives on a kibbutz, never worrying about a bank account or job interviews, now have to learn how to provide for themselves and their families.

We met a gentleman who, at the age of 55, started a company to help people suffering from trauma by using pet/animal therapy. He

doesn't discriminate about who can use his services, but he did have to apply for loans without any credit history. He had to develop a business plan.

We also met Shosh, who runs a gallery we visited. Shosh also had to change her vocation to support herself. She sells her art, and that of others in the kibbutz and nearby locations, through gallery visits and online. She and others learned how to run a business and received start-up loans from Jewish communities outside Israel.

In my final hours in Israel, I wanted to see as much of Jerusalem as possible. My driver was an Arab from East Jerusalem. He is Muslim and has a wife and four children. In our time together, we talked about many things and he assured me that his life as a Muslim Arab in Israel is better than if he lived elsewhere. He wouldn't change anything except that he wishes for peace and for more tourists to visit.

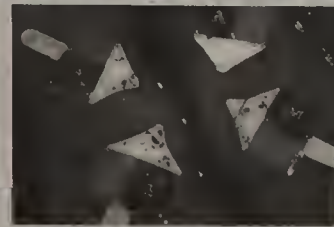
There were others from Ottawa who attended the GA and it was special to spend time in Israel with people I know from our community. Unfortunately, our paths do not cross often enough in Ottawa. I'm sure their experiences were in many ways similar to and different from mine. Although, I am certain I am the only one who played hockey on this trip.

A final note: I began this article by saying much had happened over the past 11

days. Last night, I attended the JNF Negev Dinner honouring Barbara Crook and Dan Greenberg. As I drove up to the Museum of Civilization, I was shocked to be greeted by anti-Israel protesters who referred to "genocide," "apartheid" and many other terms that instantly paint negative images about Israel.

I strongly suggest that you visit Israel and see our homeland for yourself. You will not be disappointed. Those protesters were simply not well informed.

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A Hillel Lodge Honour Fund is a permanent pool of capital that earns interest or income each year. This income then supports the priorities designated by you, the donor.

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A generous donation in memory of Martin and Thea Ginsburg, beloved parents, has been made to this fund by Merle Ginsburg, Andrea Ginsburg and Joan Katzoff

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Tania Firestone by Margo, David, Aaron and Gail Kardish

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Malca Kahansky Mazal Tov and best wishes on the Bar Mitzvah of your grandson by Dorothy and Maurie Karp

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In Honour of:

Sylvia and Charlie Levine Wishing you a happy and healthy anniversary, all our love by Brenda, Nathan, Jesse and Daniel Levine and Morris Kimmel

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A very generous donation was made to this fund by Lazaro Sternic

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In Honour of:

Andrea Arron So glad to see you up and about. Keep up the good work by Sarah and Arnie Swedter

Sarah Swedter Congratulations on the honour you received from Hillel Lodge by Freda Lithwick

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Hy Hymes Mazal tov on your special birthday by Carole and Norman Zagerman

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Betty Rose by Carole and Norman Zagerman

Residents Feeding Program

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Esther and Irving Kulik Mazal tov on the birth of your twin grandsons by Mara and Isaac Muzikansky and family

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Lillian Katznelson by Annette and Jack Edelson

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Dan Landen by Edith Landen

Major Pulvermacher by Dee and Yalc Gaffin

Yetta Rockman by Ruth and Irving Aaron; and Rhonda, Danny, Samuel, Zachary and Shelby Levine

Beloved daughter-in-law of Christiana Bryan and niece of Marcia August by the Residents and Staff of Hillel Lodge

IN HONOUR OF:

Lois and Boh Ahelson In appreciation by Ruth and Irving Aaron

Molly Hirsch and Eric Elkin Mazal tov on the engagement of your son Benji to Nathalie by Ruth and Dale Fyman

Sophie and Neil Frenkel Mazal tov on the birth of your granddaughter by Ruth and Dale Fyman

Chelsea Sauve Mazal tov to our granddaughter who has been chosen as one of 10 students to participate in the Top Leaders Mission of the Canadian Federation of Jewish Students. We are so proud of you with love by Grammy and Zaidy (Debi and David) Shore

Sylvia and Leo Straweyski Mazal tov on the occasion of your son Judah's marriage by Ruth and Dale Fyman

Dr. Peter Teitelbaum and A Touch of Klez In appreciation by Temple Israel

A very generous donation has been made by Eleanor and Paul Weiner in honour of their brother and brother-in-law, Louis Weiner

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Singing Happy Birthday – one child at a time

By Melissa Wallach

Weizmann Science Canada

"Dear Birthday Angel, it meant a lot to me that you cared about me enough to give me a birthday party which my parents never could."

Did you know that one of every three children in Israel cannot afford a birthday party?

Birthday Angels: A Birthday Party Project is an extension of the Perach Tutoring Project, and is funded by Weizmann Science Canada.

The Perach program was founded in 1974 by students from the Weizmann Institute of Science. Today, approximately 15 per cent of all students in Israel's institutes of higher education and tens of thousands of children in need take part in the Perach Tutoring Project each year. On May 8, 2008, Israel's 60th Independence Day, Perach was awarded the most prestigious prize in the country, the Israel Prize, for lifetime contribution to the state and society. The award is an affirmation that Perach's 34 years of efforts to close educational and social gaps in Israeli society are deeply appreciated.

The *Birthday Angels* program is designed to give Israeli children



Birthday Angels: A Birthday Party Project funded by Weizmann Science Canada provides birthday parties to Israeli children whose families can't afford to.

from disadvantaged socio-economic homes, or those who have a mental or physical disability, a boost to their self-esteem by providing them with a birthday party. And it pro-

vides opportunities for people in the Diaspora to make personal connections with Israeli children.

Birthday Angels is a wonderful opportunity to teach our children, as

well a reminder for ourselves, about the importance and necessity of giving to those who are less fortunate. There is no better feeling than knowing you are making a difference in someone else's life. Through this mitzvah you can make a difference in a child's life.

A \$36 donation to *Birthday Angels* provides an Israeli child with his or her very own birthday party. The party kit is filled with games, music, stickers and decorations – everything a volunteer from the Perach Tutoring Program needs to give a child their memorable, fun-filled party.

Your donation makes you, or a person you would like to honour, a Birthday Angel. And when Birthday Angels receive personalized thank you cards from their birthday child, they quickly see how their donation has made a difference in the child's life.

There are many ways to become a Birthday Angel. A few examples include honouring a family member or friend on a special celebration such as Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, new babies, engagements, weddings, anniversaries or birthdays.

When your school or community organization celebrates holidays

like Tu B'Shevat, Yom Ha'Atzmaut, Rosh Hashanah or Chanukah, make a donation to *Birthday Angels* and provide a birthday party to light up the life of a child in need. In lieu of loot bags, make a donation in honour of a child's birthday to *Birthday Angels* or ask your guests to make a donation instead of buying a gift.

It is amazing how little it takes to become a Birthday Angel and make the dream of a birthday party come true for children who have never allowed themselves to dream of such a happy event. Every child deserves a birthday party. Every child deserves the recognition, love, attention, self-esteem and the feeling of being special on their birthday. Every child deserves a birthday cake with candles to blow out and to make a wish. Every child deserves to smile on his or her birthday and to look forward to the next one!

Weizmann Science Canada encourages people of every age to make a difference and become a Birthday Angel.

For more information on becoming a Birthday Angel, contact Melissa Wallach at 613-236-3391 or melissa@weizmann.ca.

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Jewish Memorial Gardens appoints executive director

By Mayer Alvo

Jewish Memorial Gardens

Jewish Memorial Gardens has announced that Shelly Fiennes has been appointed to the position of executive director.

A very compassionate individual, Shelly has an extensive and varied background, making her particularly well suited to the position. Her family was in the fu-

neral business in British Columbia and she has worked in the finance industry doing investigative and legal work. As well, she has taken courses in horticulture and landscape design.

Among her many duties Shelly will be a resource person to the bereaved. She will meet with the family (or individuals in charge) of the deceased and arrange for all

matters related to the funeral. This includes ensuring that interment rights have been secured, contacting the Chevra Kadisha as well as the officiating clergy of the synagogue where the plot is located. The family will also be presented with choices for selecting a suitable funeral parlour.

Shelly will also be responsible for the maintenance of the ceme-

tery grounds and for supervising the planting of flowers and hedges in the spring.

In a meeting held July 8, six Ottawa synagogues signed an agreement placing both the Bank Street and Osgoode cemeteries under the governance of Jewish Memorial Gardens. Under the agreement, the synagogues retain religious control over burial and

other services, and of the clergy who may carry out such services. Amalgamation provides various benefits to the bereaved and to the community-at-large, and also helps in building heritage funds for future generations.

Shelly can be reached at 613-680-7050 or on her cell at 613-263-4062. Her fax number is 613-680-7053.

Hillel Academy seeks supporters for Mezuzah Campaign

By Jackie Barwin

Hillel Academy Fundraising Chair

Hillel Academy is seeking supporters to dedicate beautiful new mezuzot to adorn doorposts in the recently renovated school.

For 60 years, Hillel has been Ottawa's Jewish community day school. We have a proud history of graduating students solidly prepared for success in high school and beyond, and ready to make valuable contributions to the Jewish community and Canadian society.

As a private school, Hillel needs to raise funds to continue to provide the high quality education community members expect of the school. The Mezuzah Campaign has been launched to help raise those funds.

The Mezuzah Campaign was launched at an important moment in Hillel Academy

history as the school building had just undergone a significant renovation in preparation for the imminent arrival of Yitzhak Rabin High School (YRHS) students. Sharing the building will help ensure the future of both YRHS and Hillel, allowing the two schools to grow together and better serve the Jewish community.

Funds raised through the Mezuzah Campaign will benefit four priority areas.

The first is special education for students needing resource support or enrichment. The Mezuzah Campaign will help ensure that Hillel's special education department can meet this growing demand.

The second is arts education. The Mezuzah Campaign will help support music, art and drama programming for all students at Hillel Academy.

The third area to benefit from the

campaign is tuition assistance, now administered by a newly formed, arms-length committee chaired by former Hillel parent Lynn Rockman. As the cost of tuition continues to rise, it is imperative that those requiring assistance to keep their children in school receive the financial support they need to do so.

The final area is information technology. Funds from the Mezuzah Campaign will ensure Hillel students have access to up-to-date computer equipment and computer-related learning resources.

Charles and Aviva Freedman have generously dedicated the front entrance mezuzah in honour of the many contributions to Hillel Academy made by Aviva's parents. Her father was the founding principal of the school and her mother was a Hillel Academy teacher for

many years. In addition, several classroom mezuzot have also been dedicated.

The dedication of a classroom mezuzah costs \$1,800. A dedication can be shared between two donors giving \$900 each. A donation of \$180 will be acknowledged on a dedication plaque that can be shared by up to 10 separate parties.

Donations of any size are, of course, welcome and greatly appreciated. The Mezuzah Campaign brochure can be found on the school's website at hillelacademy.ca. A dedication evening will take place in the spring, honouring all whose names will appear on the dedication plaques.

For further information or to make a donation, please contact me at 613-729-8027 or jackie@barwin.ca, or Pearl Beausoleil, Hillel Academy financial secretary, at 613-722-0248 or finance@hillelacademy.ca.



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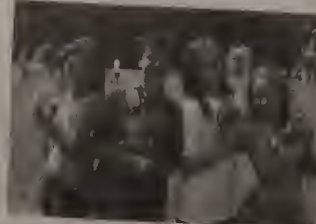
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Marcy, camp mother, at the beach with 2 campers



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Advocating for Israel on campus is a rewarding experience

By Dan Schloss
Israel Advocacy
Co-ordinator
Hillel Ottawa

There is no question that the anti-Israel lobby on Ottawa campuses is growing. Would it surprise you to hear that the term 'apartheid' has become an acceptable and not-uncommon way for Israel to be referred to on campus? Or that Students

Against Israeli Apartheid (SAIA) at Carleton University was founded and is headed by a young Jewish man?

It may have been a shock for many in the community to experience anti-Israel protestors when arriving at the Jewish National Fund Negev Dinner last month, but such anti-Israel expression is normal on campus. Students don't react with alarm, however. It inspires and invigorates the Ottawa students on the front lines of Israel advocacy on campus daily.

The Ottawa Jewish community should be proud that there is such a strong group of dedicated Israel activists on our university campuses. Both Carleton University and the University of Ottawa host large Israel Awareness Committees (IAC) with both Jews and non-Jews participating in leadership and activities. Students have represented Ottawa on an international stage as well. In September, we sent about 30 students to New York City to represent Ottawa and Canada in a rally outside of the United Nations protesting Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's gross human rights violations, his Holocaust denials and his constant threats directed at Israel. In early November, three Ottawa students went to an ex-

clusive advocacy conference in Beverly Hills, California to network with other Israel advocates from around North America and improve their advocacy skills.

IAC students have met with the presidents of both universities, with the student society presidents of both universities and with numerous other administrators and student leaders from both universities in order to better advocate for Jewish students and, especially, for Israel. They have also met with members of Parliament in Canada and with officials of the Israeli government.

During this winter break, about 10, mostly non-Jewish, student leaders are going on missions to Israel to see and experience Israel as part of a national Jewish-funded initiative. There are more Ottawa students on these trips than from any other city in Canada.

IAC students have also hosted speakers talking about Israeli popular culture, held an Israeli Mini-Film Festival in conjunction with the Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies at Carleton and spent numerous days talking on campus discussing issues concerning Israel. They have also hosted public relations seminars and advocacy seminars to im-

prove their ability to represent Israel.

These student advocates are a diverse crowd with differing political ideas concerning Israel and this pluralism has been manifested in events discussing and questioning Israeli military engagements and the sometimes tenuous relationship of Israeli Jews with Israeli Arabs. The IAC even agreed to provide a speaker for a debate and exchange of ideas concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict on Carleton's campus. Unfortunately, the event was cancelled because anti-Israel groups refused to participate in a dialogue with supporters of Israel. The goal of campus advocacy is not to blindly support everything Israel does, but rather provide Israel with a voice on-campus and give other students some peace-of-mind concerning our tiny homeland.

Finally, Ottawa's IAC students are fearlessly advocating on behalf of Israel in one of the most daunting and hostile anti-Israel climates in Canada. I am in constant contact with Jewish campus staff from across Canada and we are faced with one of the most anti-Israel campus climates in the country.

While our Israel advocates on campus represent our community's interests with courage and determination, they are still in the minority on campus. The departing remarks made by Alan Baker, Israel's former ambassador to Canada, about the necessity of community support for our students could not have been more correct. It is important for this community to not only financially support these students efforts, but, more importantly, to mobilize and learn how to effectively advocate for Israel alongside them. Ottawa's community should be proud to support these students not only with what they need, but, more importantly, with what they deserve.

Contact me at israelaffairs@hillelottawa.ca for more information.



**Jewish Unity Live 2009
Torah Study Project**

THE SHEMA

Join a study group of your choice or organize your own!

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PINECREST
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Jan 7, 14, 28, Feb 4 7:30pm
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Open to Everyone

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At the Kershman/Wasserlauf home
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Mon. Feb. 9 8:00pm
By R' Zischa Shaps
Open to Everyone

WESTBORO
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For Young Couples

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February 14 by Rabbi E. Ben-Porat
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Uniting the Jewish Community with "Shema Yisrael"

By Rachel Goldbaum
JET Program Co-ordinator

One of my earliest and most pleasant memories as a child is of my mother tucking me into bed at night and coaching me as I recited, "Shema Yisrael ..."

Now that I find myself in the role of a mother, as I tuck my own children into bed at night and say the Shema with them, I can't help but marvel at the beauty of our timeless heritage, one that unites parent and child throughout the generations.

What is it about the Shema that calls out, that tugs at our inner workings, that evokes so much emotion? Wouldn't we all like to find out?

It is for this reason that

JET's annual Jewish Unity Live learning campaign has chosen the Shema as the theme for this year's study project. It is my job to co-ordinate this initiative and I feel privileged to be a part of this exciting program. Groups have been formed in neighbourhoods throughout the city, and participants will be examining the intricacies and depth of this timeless prayer.

Come explore this defining statement inscribed in the mezuzahs on the doorposts of our homes. Figure out how this prayer unites us all. Find out why this statement has been the powerful battle cry of Israel throughout the ages, the spiritual climax of our Yom Kippur pleas, and a

gripping proclamation of countless numbers of Jews during catastrophic situations.

Whether you are a night owl or a morning person, one that prefers a formal venue or a relaxed atmosphere on the couch in someone's home, JET has a class for you. And if you're too busy to make it to a class you can study on your own. JET can recommend some fascinating books, or you can opt to receive JET's e-mail of the week.

What about the children? As co-ordinator of Jewish Unity Live, I am doubly excited to introduce an original program *Just Say It, Pray It, Play It* that will involve the children of Ottawa. Every



A Jewish Unity Live study group at the home of Stan and Cathy Levine.

Jewish child in Ottawa is invited to participate in this innovative project with its inspiring stories, incentive charts and exciting contests. The knowledge and skill they will take away from this program, along with the insight the adults will gain from the Jewish Unity Live study project will unite parent and child, once again linking one generation to the next.

On Wednesday, February 19, JET will host a gala celebration to mark the accom-

plishments of the Jewish Unity Live program at the Library and Archives Canada

auditorium and the entire community is invited to attend.

New parenting book club to start at JYL

By Devora Caytak
Jewish Youth Library

Devora Caytak and Nili Szilagyi will be leading a new book club discussing *The Blessing of a Skinned Knee* by Wendy Mogel. The club will run for eight Mondays, beginning December 22, from 10:30 until 11:30 am at the Jewish Youth Library, 192 Switzer Avenue.

There is no cost for the book club series, but each participant is asked to buy a copy of the book. Author Wendy Mogel is a clinical psychologist, educator and workshop leader who provides a new road map for parenting.

Parents today find it harder than ever to

uphold their own values within their families when they seem so at odds with those of our current culture. How can this generation of parents raise self-reliant, compassionate and ethical children?

Drawing on the wisdom of the Torah, the Talmud and important Jewish teachings, *The Blessing of a Skinned Knee* provides the answer. Using a framework of blessings, Mogel provides parents with a new set of priorities, helping to ease apprehension while creating a positive feeling about the future.

Call the Jewish Youth Library at 613-729-7712 for more information.



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JEWISH FEDERATION OF OTTAWA



Nominate a COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER for Jewish Federation of Ottawa 75th ANNIVERSARY AWARD

The Jewish Federation of Ottawa will be celebrating its 75th anniversary in the year 2009. In honour of this special anniversary, the community plans to recognize 75 individuals who, through their volunteer work, help enrich and enhance Jewish life in Ottawa.

The Jewish Federation's 75th Anniversary Award will recognize 75 individual volunteers, not previously recognized by the Jewish community. These 75 worthy recipients will represent the scope of the Federation's community involvement. These areas could include fundraising, allocations, community relations, Holocaust remembrance, kashrut, the maintenance of the mikvah, support for university students, youth travel to Israel, community archives, to name only a few.

A special award ceremony will take place to honour these 75 worthy individuals.

Deadline for submission January 30, 2009.
Please submit your volunteer suggestions for the
Jewish Federation's 75th Anniversary Award
to

Dawn Paterson Jewish Federation of Ottawa dpaterson@jewishottawa.com
(613) 798-4696, ext. 236

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Head start to Federation Mitzvah Day 2008

The Jewish Federation of Ottawa's Mitzvah Day, when the entire community comes together for a day that combines good deeds with fun for the whole family, was held on Sunday, December 7 at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre just as this issue of the *Bulletin* was going to press. We'll have complete Mitzvah Day coverage in our January 26 edition.

As seen in the pictures on this page, there were some head starts to the Mitzvah Day deeds.



Grade Six students make *Dolls for Darfur* pins

(Above and below) Grade six students from Charles H. Hulse Public School and Hillel Academy came together December 2 in the Hillel Academy gym to make *Dolls for Darfur* pins in a head start to Mitzvah Day held December 7.

The *Dolls for Darfur* Campaign raises awareness about the genocide taking place in the Darfur region of Sudan. The pins are an opportunity to educate others about the atrocities in Darfur.

Each individually packaged pin comes with a business-sized information card about the plight of the Darfurians. Proceeds raised from the sale of the pins will be given to advocacy and humanitarian agencies aiding Darfur.

(OJB Photos: Michael Regenstein)



The Soloway JCC Mitzvah Knitters display some of the colourful hats and sweaters they've knitted to help keep people in need warm this winter.

(OJB Photo: Michael Regenstein)

Locks of Love – before the haircuts

Mitzvah Day chair Stacey Segal and daughter Talia were among those whose long hair was cut and donated to Locks of Love, an organization that creates hair prosthetics for financially disadvantaged children suffering from long-term medical hair loss.

Here's how Stacey and Talia looked on December 2, the day before their hair cuts.

(OJB Photo: Michael Regenstein)



Locks of Love – after the haircuts



Alison Stein (left) and Lindsay Rothenberg (centre) joined Stacey and Talia at the Shear Indulgence salon in Kanata for their Locks of Love haircuts. All four are holding braids made from their hair that will be used to help children who have lost their own hair due to medical conditions.

(Photo: Mitch Miller)

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Volunteer spotlight

Tax man generously gives expertise to community

By Benita Siemiatycki

As a partner at Ginsberg Gluzman Fage & Levitz Chartered Accountants, Jeffrey Miller has his hands full. Between his obligations to his staff, partners and many clients, Jeff's work day leaves little time for anything else.

But, despite the demands of a busy career and family, Jeff has demonstrated an impressive voluntary commitment to Ottawa's Jewish community. Since arriving in Ottawa from Montreal in 1984, Jeff has been a fixture on boards of directors, and has thrown himself into several fundraising events.

As a chartered accountant, Jeff has usually been recruited onto boards as treasurer, which also places him on executive committees. That's the path that led to his being president of the Bess and Moe Greenberg Family Hillel Lodge, where he's been involved since 2001. As president, he oversees the board, is responsible for all its committees and represents Hillel Lodge at community meetings.

"Right from the start, Jeff provided sage advice on the financial aspects of the operation," says Stephen Schneiderman, Hillel Lodge executive director. "After a number of years of dedication, instead of reducing his time and responsibilities, Jeff chose to increase his involvement and take on the mantle of leadership as president. Jeff's considerable accounting background and solid business acumen have provided the Lodge with some-



Jeff Miller balances his busy workday with family and community. (OJB Photo: Benita Siemiatycki)

one who understands what it takes, in fact how much it takes, to achieve success."

Shortly after arriving in Ottawa, where his wife, Rhoda Saslove-Miller, was raised, Jeff sought volunteer opportunities. He joined the Jewish Family Services board of directors in 1985 and served as treasurer for four years.

When his oldest child began school at Hillel Academy in 1988, Jeff brought his skills to the school's board of directors, first as treasurer, then vice-president and, finally, as president for two terms. In total, Jeff provided leadership to the school over a 12-year period until his two children graduated. Jewish education and caring for seniors are

critical issues for him.

With a growing reputation as a financial expert and skilled community leader, Jeff was recruited onto the boards and executive committees of Torah Academy of Ottawa in 2002 where he served for four years, Machzikei Hadas Congregation in 2006 for two years and the Rideau View Country Club in 2007, which is on-going.

He's also been involved in many fundraising initiatives. A long-time member of B'nai Brith Parliament Lodge, Jeff chaired the Millionaire's Night several years ago, and served as bingo chair for Hillel Academy.

In 1988, he was one of six founders of the popular Charithon 24-hour softball tournament, which supported CHEO. It was modelled after a similar event Jeff started with a friend when he lived in Montreal. Most recently, Jeff chaired the SJCC/Hillel Academy Desert Golf Classic in 2007 and 2008.

For the past 20 years, he's canvassed on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal.

Jeff also sits on the Ot-

tawa Community Foundation's Professional Advisory Board.

Jewish causes are where Jeff has deliberately chosen to place his limited time, though he stresses that other causes, like hospitals, are equally deserving.

"I believe we're a small group of people in the Diaspora," he explains. "I'm very proud of my Jewish heritage and being able to give back to the community, and to perpetuate being Jewish and what it means to be Jewish."

The years spent at evening meetings and fundraising activities have given Jeff one major regret – the time spent away from his family. His two children, Howard, 25, and Sara, 22, noticed his absence, he says, but the family was extremely supportive and understood his commitment to the Jewish community.

Jeff urges his staff to get involved in whatever community causes they believe in, and not to expect it to lead to more business. Instead, volunteers can develop workplace skills related to running meetings, dealing with people and handling difficult situations. Business may or may not follow.

"Over the years, I think I've developed my reputation as a professional because of my volunteer activity," says Jeff. But the rewards of giving back to the community, he adds, are immeasurable.

Benita Siemiatycki of the Jewish Ottawa InfoCentre profiles community volunteers in the Bulletin.

Many organizations are in desperate need of volunteers. Call the InfoCentre at 613-798-4644 for information on volunteer opportunities.

Community agencies and organizations are also welcome to contact Benita at the InfoCentre with their suggestions of volunteers to be profiled in future issues.


Avi Shelemay
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Chabad Lubavitch opens Jewish Montessori preschool

By Kinneret Globerman
for Westboro Jewish
Montessori Preschool

Picture a preschool classroom without a teacher's desk or blackboard. Children are focused on various activities. Shelves are neatly stocked with all kinds of unusual and beautifully crafted materials. And the most often-heard voices are of children, not teachers.

This is no ordinary classroom. It's a Montessori classroom based on an internationally respected educational method that's come to Westboro with a Jewish twist. It may have taken school founder and co-director Devora Caytak more than a decade to make it happen, but the Westboro Jewish Montessori Preschool – the first Jewish Montessori preschool in Ottawa – has finally opened its doors.

Under the auspices of the Chabad Lubavitch movement, the Westboro Jewish Montessori Preschool is at 192 Switzer Avenue in the Jewish Youth Library of Ottawa complex. Caytak is excited to have Montessori educator Erin Gailor at the school's helm. Gailor will be joined by another experienced Montessori educator, Lisa Power. Jewish children, from two-and-a-half to five years of age, and of any affiliation, will learn and grow together in classrooms full of Montessori equipment, and with a ratio



Jonah Wilbur, 3, concentrates on a task at the Westboro Jewish Montessori Preschool.

of one teacher per seven students. The children will also be taught Jewish holidays and customs, learn Hebrew and French, and enjoy kosher lunches and snacks.

Chabad preschools worldwide are adopting the Montessori method, developed by Italian educator Maria Montessori.

Montessori's approach is hands on for the children, hands off for the teacher. Children are given the freedom to explore everything from botany and mathematics to self-care and self-expression while the teacher offers guidance. Children are encouraged to learn using all of their senses, their physical motor skills, their observations, and they do so in classes with mixed age groups, mastering reading, writing and math faster

than their peers in other school systems.

"When Montessori is presented properly, it opens up new worlds for children and for their learning," says Caytak, who had always wanted to open a Montessori school, but not until she had the right staff. Gailor's availability has allowed her to realize her long-held dream.

"In Montessori, there is no grading," explains Gailor. "No child feels threatened by, or in competition with another. And they all get individual attention, working at their own pace. I believe every child is a genius. I believe every child is gifted. You just have to help them discover their gifts and talents."

Gailor would like to see Montessori classrooms in primary school everywhere. For now, she'll settle for being co-director of the Westboro Jewish Montessori Preschool.

"I firmly believe that

Montessori is good for everybody. I believe it's one of the best kinds of education that fosters love of learning. My vision is that the school will grow and parents will utilize this wonderful school that Devora has created to give children a sound educational foundation, a love of learning, a wonder of the world around them, along with an understanding, respect, and a love of Judaism that they will carry with them throughout their lives."

The Westboro Jewish Montessori Preschool opened for the 2008-09 school year. Hours of operation are from 8:30 am to 3 pm.

After-school care can also be arranged. Any Jewish child, regardless of affiliation or level of observance, is welcome.

For more information, contact the school at 613-729-7712. You can arrange to visit the school at anytime to observe the classroom.

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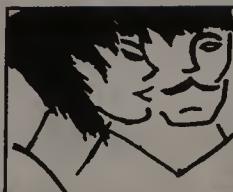


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Section Two

Tikkun Olam drives Ottawa's new medical officer of health

By Benita Siemiatycki

In July, Ottawa City Council appointed Dr. Isra Levy, 46, as the city's medical officer of health. His appointment caps a long career that has focused on health promotion, epidemiology, health policy and emergency preparedness.

Across Canada, medical officers of health are charged with taking necessary action when required to protect the health of the local population. Some high-profile, dramatic examples include the SARS outbreak in Toronto, the E. coli contamination of Walkerton's water system and the recent Listeria contaminations of packaged meats and cheeses.

On a day-to-day basis, the medical officer of health is responsible for minimizing any risk to the population's health. That includes getting out such health education messages as urging people to get the flu shot, to stop smoking, to avoid food-borne illnesses, as well as ensuring restaurants meet required hygienic standards, that our drinking water is safe, that communicable and infectious diseases are contained and that potential public health hazards are dealt with. Occasionally, they also delve into the political realm when grappling with controversial issues, such as the implementation of the smoking ban in public places and, more recently, the needle exchange program for drug users.

Translating complex medical and scientific jargon into easy-to-understand sound bites for the media is also the role of the medical officer of health. As spokesperson for the Health Department, Levy was thrust into this situation early in his appointment when Listeria hit the headlines and he was asked to explain the implications to the public.

As the world becomes more globalized, with diseases being transmitted from continent to continent and with new threats such as bioterrorism emerging, the role of the medical officer of health is constantly changing and is frequently unpredictable.

"The beauty of this position is that it's extraordinarily challenging, with a wide array of services of-



Dr. Isra Levy, Ottawa's medical officer of health, in his office.

(OJB Photo: Benita Siemiatycki)

ferred, and significant responsibility," explains Levy.

The journey that led to Levy's current position goes back to his childhood. Growing up in Johannesburg, South Africa, he was deeply affected by apartheid. Although the Jewish community in South Africa dates back to the country's founding, most South African Jews are descendants of Eastern European and Russian Jews who fled pogroms in the late-19th and early-20th centuries, or who were refugees from Nazi Germany. The Jewish community identified with the persecution and violence that blacks faced during apartheid. In fact, proportionately more Jews than non-Jews participated in the anti-apartheid movement, and Jews were usually found in the majority of anti-apartheid organizations and protests.

Witnessing the "systematic and organized way of segregating society and allowing parts of the community to have privileges others were denied seared the Jewish soul in South Africa," says Levy. "As Jewish white South Africans in the '60s and '70s, the injustices and inequalities that we grew up with just cried out for some effort at social justice."

(Continued on page 35)



Sami Awad points to Gilo from the hills of Bethlehem.

(Photo: Rabbi Steven Garten)

A compelling visit to Bethlehem, on the other side of the wall

By Rabbi Steven Garten

When I went to Israel last month as a member of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa's delegation to the United Jewish Communities General Assembly (GA), I had every expectation of listening to the major political leaders of the State of Israel now enmeshed in their election campaign. Frankly, after the listening to the powerful oratory of U.S. President-elect Barack Obama, I was more than a little disappointed by the pedestrian words of Ehud Olmert, the outgoing Israeli prime minister, and of Tzipi Livni, Ehud Barak and Benjamin Netanyahu, the party leaders running to replace him.

Yet conventions are not always judged by the plenary speakers. There were many valuable workshops and the networking amongst laity and professionals is always exciting. It is a valuable experi-

ence to compare our community's successes with those of other communities. And it is always valuable to hold a mirror to our community and see how others perceive us.

Yet it was not the GA that occupied my mind as I flew home on November 21. It was a very unusual trip to Bethlehem that would be the most memorable aspect of this journey.

I had not been in the Palestinian territories since 2000. Though I have had the pleasure of meeting with representatives of the Palestinian Authority and touring communities and kibbutzim near the borders between Israel and Gaza, and Israel and the West Bank, I have not been across the border recently – until this journey.

On November 20, I spent 12 hours in the Palestinian city of Bethlehem as part of a group whose visit was arranged by an or-

ganization called Encounter, which was founded just four years ago by Rabbi Melissa Weintraub, an American Conservative rabbi.

According to Encounter's mission statement, "Encounter is an educational organization dedicated to providing Jewish Diaspora leaders from across the religious and political spectrum with exposure to Palestinian life. Encounter invites participants to ask questions and grapple with fresh perspectives, in order to create human connections across lines of enmity."

My visit to Bethlehem fulfilled their highest hopes.

In the course of one day, I encountered Palestinians aged from six to 85. I encountered high school and university students, public servants, olive wood sculptors, peace activists, businesspeople, elementary school principals

(Continued on page 34)

Over the wall, there are real people with real stories

(Continued from page 33)

and convicted terrorists.

I ate lunch with wonderful people whose dreams for peace are no different than those of Israelis. I had coffee with college students whose anger and resentment toward Israel made me nervous and depressed. I heard the same variety of opinions concerning the future of a two-state solution that I would have heard in any falafel stand across the border in Jerusalem; opinions we rarely hear expressed in North America. Though there is no way to communicate the intensity of the experience with you, I want to describe three narratives that have marked my soul.

Bethlehem, the ancient birthplace of Christianity, looks like an American ghetto of the late-1960s and early-'70s. There is uncollected garbage everywhere. The streets are not just filled with litter, they appear to be the garbage bins of the city. The waste is not simply plastic bottles and food wrappers, it is every kind of human waste and every form of discarded refuse, and I am overwhelmed by what appears to be the complete disregard for common community health standards.

I am also amazed that the inhabitants of this beautiful city seem immune to the filth. At lunch, I ask a most attractive and articulate young woman about the filthy streets. Her answer says so much about the world in which she lives.

Marram Issa tells me that there are no laws in Bethlehem to force individuals to pick up the garbage. She also tells me that the city government is so ineffectual that, even if there were laws, they would not be enforced.

I ask her if the inhabitants of the city need external forces to make their city look healthy and proud. She does not understand the concept. She is bright and opinionated about Israeli occupation and American hegemony, but, when it comes to clean



Lunch at the Red Tent Restaurant in Bethlehem.

(Photo: Rabbi Steven Garten)

streets and a healthy environment, she can only see the lack of legal structures as the source of human inaction. She cannot see that the beautification of her city does not depend on external laws; rather, it is a reflection of pride and ownership.

Marram is a sixth generation Bethlehemite, yet the occupation has crushed her sense of civic pride. She will, of course, tell me that garbage is so unimportant when the wall and checkpoints are the real garbage in Bethlehem. I am there to listen and elicit her views, not to convince her of mine. The food is tasty and plentiful, but it is a very uncomfortable lunch.

Sami Awad is the director of the Holy Land Trust. It is a non-profit organization established in 1998 that is devoted to establishing non-violent responses to the Israeli occupation of Palestine and to building an

independent Palestinian state devoted to principles of democracy and respect for human rights. Sami will lead our group on a two-hour tour of Bethlehem and the separation barrier, the wall.

The journey through the city is informative. Sami shows us the refugee camps and tells us of the poverty and depression that mark the camps. He shows us very little of Bethlehem's tourist areas. Toward the middle of the journey, we get off the bus and stand on a hill that provides an opportunity to see the Jerusalem suburbs of Gilo and Har Homa.

To Sami, they are not suburbs. To him, they are illegal settlements built on the ancient land of his grandparents. He tells us tales about Israeli aggression, about how the Israeli army viciously attacked Bet Jala and the surrounding villages, while the Palestinians responded with light arms and homemade rockets.

I want to strangle him as he continues to provide a narrative at odds with the truth as I know it. I stood on the other side in Gilo when Palestinians fired into the homes of Israelis. I stood there observing the Palestinian attacks long before the Israeli army arrived to protect its citizens. Yet, the premise of Encounter is to hear the other side and to internalize what they feel and see, not to debate. I swallow my bile and return to the bus.

Sami walks the wall with us. He tells us of the pain and suffering it has created. He shows us homes and businesses that, because of their location near the wall, are forbidden by Israeli law to open their windows. It is very moving. I feel for the Palestinians. No one should live this way. I am not yet ready to tear down the security fence, but it will never again be simply a protective wall. It will be a symbol of the failures of both sides to move beyond armed conflict.

At the end of our tour, Sami will return to his office. Before he leaves the bus, he surprises us all with the following words: "I have always wondered why Israelis are obsessed with security. What makes them unable to trust anyone or any government? Why do they believe that only they can provide the definition of security? I don't understand them."

"So, last summer, I travelled to Poland. I visited Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen. I spent a week trying to comprehend what the world has done to them."

We do not get an opportunity to ask this man, who has called Israelis "occupiers, murderers, tyrants, fascists," what he has taken away from the experience. As he departs, I wonder whether any Jew would go so far to understand the psychological make up a Palestinian. I am chastised by Sami's journey toward understanding and wonder about reciprocity.

One last vignette: Seven of us will leave on Thursday night to catch planes back to North America. The van that transports us to Jerusalem will not take us through the checkpoint. We will walk the same route that Palestinian day workers, visitors, those seeking medical attention and others will traverse.

It is a 600-metre walkway, bound by barbed wire. It is a cage, similar to that through which cattle walk on the way to slaughter. The security lights cast an eerie aura upon us. We walk through the wired maze in no time. But it is not difficult to imagine hundreds of men, women and children lining up for hours at a time to have the army scrutinize their documents.

We reach the second hall in which there will be a security check. We observe the armed soldiers standing on the catwalks. We see the concrete cylinders in which suspicious individuals will be made to undress so that the camera can search their naked bodies.

None of us has much to say about this experience. We are all professional Jews. We know that security is not a capricious whim of the Jewish state. Yet we have encountered the reality of what Israeli policies impose upon the life of Palestinians.

This encounter does not change my mind about a two-state solution. It does not change my perception of Israel's right to exist.

This journey will not cause me to question, any more or less than I already do, the policies of the government of Israel. What it has done is remind me that over the wall, and behind the barbed wire, there are real people, with real stories. Their stories are no less poignant than my Israeli friends' stories.

This encounter will not alter my cynical responses to the words of Israeli and Palestinian politicians, but will change forever how I feel about those men, women and children who we so cavalierly call the enemy. It was not the encounter I expected, but it was the encounter they deserved.



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Levy: public health medicine “a vocation, a calling”

(Continued from page 33)

As a result, he believes, many of his Jewish friends entered professions, like medicine, teaching and law, which allow them to advocate on behalf of the disenfranchised.

“I do think there was an underpinning of our heritage and our own experience around struggling with the inequities of vulnerable populations that took us down those paths,” he continues.

Levy attended Jewish elementary and high schools, and was active in the Habonim youth movement. In fact, it was at a Habonim camp that he met his wife, Rhodesian-born Jacque.

In 1986, Levy earned his medical degree from the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa. After practising for two years, Levy and Jacque joined thousands of other Jewish emigrants.

“For young Jewish Africans of that generation, the draw was not being in South Africa. So you went where community was, you went where family was,” he says.

It is estimated that, between 1970 and 1992, more than 39,000 Jews left South Africa; although it remains one of the largest Jewish communities in the Diaspora.

Their first stop was England, but it didn't take long to realize the fit wasn't right. Levy's sister, who had immigrated to Toronto a few years earlier, encouraged the couple to visit Canada. Being young and adventurous, Levy secured a temporary position in Bonaville, Newfoundland, where they lived for three months.

“We fell in love with it,” he says. As a young doctor, the remote area offered him a unique hands-on training ground in many aspects of medicine, something he couldn't have experienced in a large city.

The couple returned to England and made the life-changing decision to immigrate to Canada. England felt claustrophobic with too many people in a limited space, while Canada offered the openness the Levys were accustomed to.

Required to work in a rural area at first, Levy's posting was in the farming community of Dinsmore, Saskatchewan – population 400.

Jacque, a physiotherapist, did home visits. They lived there over an eight-month period in 1989 and '90, experiencing their first real Canadian winter.

The desire to work in public service that stemmed from his youth still tugged at Levy. In 1990, he entered the community medicine program at the University of Ottawa, earning a master's degree in epidemiology. It is a very limited field, with only one per cent of physicians opting for a community medicine specialization. He estimates just 380 physicians are in public health across Canada. But, for Levy, it was a direction that allowed him to practise medicine at the social policy level, calling public health “a vocation, a calling.”

The experience of immigrating to Canada gave Levy a feel for what immigrants encounter when integrating into a new society. He and Jacque often reflected on how difficult it must be for individuals who don't speak English or French, who are refugees or who have no support system. That insight has stayed with him in his approach to health care.

Upon completing his degree, the couple had “fallen in love with Ottawa.” Their first son was born here, roots were planted and the couple decided to make Ottawa their home. The Jewish community in particular was very warm and welcoming, explains Levy. But it was an adjustment from the much larger community in Johannesburg where 12 synagogues were within walking distance of his home.

Levy spent five years working for the federal government performing epidemiological research into chronic diseases and cancer, and then another nine years at the Canadian Medical Association (CMA) where he opened their first Office for Public Health. The office became the CMA's proactive arm by providing information and tools physicians across the country needed to integrate health promotion strategies into their clinical practices.

He was the CMA's advocate at the provincial and federal levels, and developed an emergency preparedness strategy for physicians in response to crises such as SARS, anthrax scares and 9/11, which took place while he was at the CMA. A career pinnacle, he says, is

when he accompanied the federal minister of state for public health to Israel to study that country's emergency preparedness plans, and met with his counterpart in the Israeli Medical Association.

In October 2006, Levy was hired as associate medical officer of health with Ottawa Public Health. When his predecessor, Dr. David Salisbury, resigned in April, 2008, Levy was asked to be acting medical officer of health. Two months later, he was named the region's medical officer of health.

A major regret is that his knowledge of French is limited. As a high school student, he had the opportunity to study French. But, in an ironic twist, his father, a classics scholar, said, “What on earth would you ever need French for? Take Latin.”

Levy is currently undergoing French training, which he hopes will help him communicate easily with the city's francophone population.

“This is a very daunting opportunity,” says Levy of his new role, “but a very humbling and exciting one too.”

“A lot of the work we do here falls into advocacy for significant change around social concept constructs around us. The programming we offer – tobacco use, healthy sexuality, health risk behaviour reduction, alcohol and drug use – and the various approaches we take to that as a society, or advocating for social justice at the other end of the spectrum, where you're trying to create a system where the disenfranchised

and vulnerable communities can navigate the system by themselves ... it's only public health in medicine that allows one to do that.

“For me, it's about the *Tikkun Olam* concept in professional practice,” he adds.

In addition to working for Ottawa Public Health, Levy is an adjunct professor of epidemiology and community medicine at the University of Ottawa, and works a half-day per week as a physician at an urgent care clinic, something he has done for about 15 years.

The clinical work gives him the personal contact that he enjoys – “a uniquely privileged intimate relationship that a physician has with a patient. It's a very rewarding relationship,” he explains.

The Levy children, Joseph, 16, Rebecca, 14, and Josh, 11, all attended Hillel Academy where Jacque served on the board of directors for about 10 years, including a term as president.

As the parent of teens, how does Levy confront the risky behaviours that all parents face, such as smoking, alcohol and drug use, and sexuality, among young people? Does he leave his job at the office?

He says his approach is similar to most parents, based on education and support.

“Take responsibility for yourself with the knowledge that I'm giving you. And if you get into trouble, call me.”

And his kids?

“They say I lecture too much – ‘Dad, go away.’”

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“My elderly mother couldn't live on her own anymore. We had to find a suitable seniors' residence where she could be with other Jewish people. The Jewish Ottawa InfoCentre had the information we needed.”

What's happening at Congregation Beth Shalom

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Sunday, December 14 | Mad Science Hanukkah Event |
| | Father/Son Tallit and Tefillin Club |
| Friday, January 9 | Kabalat Shabbat Service and Dinner |
| Monday, January 12 | Book Club |
| Sunday, January 18 | Father/Son Tallit and Tefillin Club |
| Friday, February 6 | Kabalat Shabbat Service and Dinner |

Watch for more upcoming events. Everyone is Welcome!

For more information, please contact the synagogue at 613-789-3501, ext. 223 or info@bethshalom.ca
www.bethshalom.ca

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Volunteer Corner is courtesy of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa. All beneficiary agencies are invited to list their volunteer opportunities.

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- Kasher Meals on Wheels driver required asap! Mondays, Alta Vista (3-4 stops). Pick up at the Lodge around 10:15 am. Less than an hour to deliver.
- A woman who lives at Rideau & Friel would like to participate in a JFS program on Carling Ave., last Thursday of every month, 10:00 -11:30 am. She needs drives both to and from the program.
- A disabled woman who lives downtown needs help with paperwork approximately 2-3 times per month for 1-2 hours.
- An elderly woman who lives in the Byward Market area needs a friendly visitor to share coffee visits, trips to museums, art galleries, etc. Weekly, bi-weekly or monthly.
- A very interesting man who lives near the Campus is looking for someone to visit and break up his isolation for an hour or two every 1-2 weeks.
- An older woman needs someone to visit on a weekly or bi-weekly basis to sit and chat, go out for coffee, or occasional help with shopping.
- A man who lives in a retirement home off Rideau Street needs a weekly visitor for an hour or 2 while his wife is away for the winter.
- Transportation: Drivers are always needed to transport seniors to and from medical appointments, social opportunities, grocery shopping, and the like.
- Kasher Meals on Wheels Drivers who can deliver on short notice are always at a premium, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
- Friendly Visiting: Requests come in constantly from family members needing a visitor for a shut-in. Weekly, bi-weekly or ad-hoc opportunities for someone with a little time and a lot of heart. Chat over coffee, take in a show, go bowling... the opportunities are only as limited as your imagination.
- TeleShalom: Currently seeking volunteers to place weekday morning reassurance calls to isolated seniors. Each call takes approximately 2-3 minutes and can be done from your home, office or cell phone.
- Presenters: JFS hosts several monthly seniors' luncheon programs. We are always on the lookout for specialists, artists, musicians, and others who can present for about 45 minutes in exchange for a hot lunch in great company.
- Share Your Expertise: From time to time, we receive requests for things like filling out forms, putting up a Sukkah, changing dishes for Passover, and the like. If you have an expertise to share with someone in need, please let us know.
- Miriam's Well: This monthly distribution program needs helpers to pack and hand out fresh fruits and vegetables on the 1st Monday of every month. Please Note: Mileage incurred by volunteers is always reimbursed by JFS.

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- Love computers? Teach our residents a great skill. Flexible timing. Contact us!
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- Special mitzvah anyone? Bring a resident to Shabbos services (Saturdays at 9:15 am) and enjoy the fantastic Oneg with friends. Great cholel!
- Newly retired? Put Hillel Lodge volunteering in your plan. Residents welcome visitors, program assistance, all kinds of options. Pick a day, a time of day, a type of event – whatever suits your schedule. Try it out now.
- Thirsty? Serve drinks to residents every day at 11:30 am. A half hour gets you lots of smiles.
- Free on Fridays? Oneg Shabbat every week at 10:30 am and bingo at 2:00 pm – come join us.
- Culture maven? Accompany our residents to museums, concerts and plays (Wednesday and Thursday afternoons).
- Tuesday special: Enjoy our special events every week at 2:15 pm.
- Shopping experts? Have fun while accompanying residents to shopping at a mall (Monday mornings).

To inquire further, please call 613-728-3900 ext. 191 or email judithw@hillel-lt.com

Students welcome (please note: children under the age of 14 require adult accompaniment)

The annual December dilemma

It's the time of year when many Jews begin to feel the strain of yuletide cheer weighing on their collective consciousness like a sack of coal.

Negotiating this business of Christmas is tricky in a multicultural democracy. Canada prides itself on being a secular state in which all religions should feel equal. But so many messages are conveyed that Christmas in Canada is something official.

Parliament's website invites visitors to enjoy the Christmas lights and to enjoy the "decked halls" of Centre Block (though to be fair, for over a decade Parliament Hill has also hosted a menorah-lighting ceremony courtesy of Chabad), and the notwithstanding clause threatens to overturn the separation of religion and state by politicians seeking to introduce their personal or parochial moral vision into the public sphere.

On the unofficial level, Christmas music plays in shopping malls, Santa Claus Parades march down city streets and, at the grocery store, it can be easier to find a *Hannah Montana* advent calendar than a ballpark pen.

This year, Chanukah arrives in late December, making the December dilemma a bit less onerous for the many Jewish children who, predictably, get caught up in *Christmas envy*. And while Chanukah was never meant to be a stand-in for Christmas, it is nearly impossible not to have Jewish children feel that the festive celebrations commemorating the victory of the Maccabees is not, in some way, their version of Christmas.

I think that part of the cultural confusion lies in what, precisely, Christmas-celebrants are celebrating when they hang stockings from their living room mantles. For Jews who see religious Christians experiencing Christmas as a sacred holiday marking the birth of Jesus, there is probably less of a sense of exclusion.

I think it is precisely the non-religious aspects of Christmas that make some Jews feel out of place. According to University of Lethbridge sociologist Reginald Bibby, only one-quarter of our country's population attends church weekly, but so many more millions of Canadians celebrate Christmas – including many Hindus and Sikhs who have adopted those December traditions since arriving in Canada. So, where does that leave Jews, who deserve to feel as Canadian as anyone else?

Add to this the frustrating lack of civic holidays in our country. And for most Canadians, Christmas has arguably become another civic holiday anyway.



Mira Sucharov

Values, Ethics, Community

One approach is to appreciate the seasonal aspects of the Christmas season. It is not necessarily the case that enjoying a neighbour's display of coloured lights, catching an airing of the charmingly vintage 1964 *Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer* television special or humming along to *Jingle Bells* detracts from our identity as Jews. After all, both Neil Diamond and Barbra Streisand have recorded Christmas albums. And they're, like, really Jewish.

Similarly, if the clerk at the local toy store invites you to the Santa Claus Parade where the toy you've just donated to their charity drive will be presented to needy kids, consider saying "thanks" – rather than "No, thanks. We're Jewish." (I would probably be quite puzzled if I invited some colleagues to the Chanukah candle-lighting ceremony hosted by the Jewish studies program at Carleton University, and they declined, saying, "We can't. We're Christian.")

This doesn't mean that we, as Jews, can't encourage change where change is due. Vocalizing disdain for the ultra-commercialization of the season that puts all except the wealthy into an economic tailspin while big-box stores count their profits isn't necessarily sour grapes.

Our society deserves to take a good look at itself from time to time. Jews can be among those voices urging cultural and social reform, including an increase in meaningful relationships over the worship of material goods, however tempting it may be to engage in *retail therapy* now and then to ward off the winter blues.

This is also a good opportunity to revive the tradition of Jews engaging in social action around Christmas – including delivering meals to the needy and even helping replace shift-work workers so they can spend time with their families. These are the kinds of initiatives that some U.S.-based synagogues now engage in as part of *Project Ezra*. There are many in our society for whom Christmas is a reminder that they lack what others have – materially, spiritually or socially.

December is a month when work slows down, school is off, and we have a bit more time on our hands. So grab a bit of seasonal cheer, call up a Muslim friend or co-worker, and lay a few more bricks toward *Tikkun Olam* – whether for chimneys expecting a visit from Santa or for those for whom December 25 is just another day.

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A history of the Zionist movement in Canada

*Rekindling the Torch:
The Story of Canadian Zionism*
By David J. Azrieli and Joe King
Key Porter Books 2008
Hardcover
272 pages

Book Review

Rebecca Margolis

Looking for a Chanukah gift? I have a solid recommendation: a readable, glossy hardcover book packed with photographs about the story of Canadian Zionism.

Rekindling the Torch: The Story of Canadian Zionism is not a scholarly work. It contains no in-depth analysis and generally does not cite its sources. It is unabashedly enthusiastic in its portrayal of the many Canadians – Jewish and non-Jewish – who have played instrumental roles in the history of Zionism, both before and after the declaration of the State of Israel.

Those looking for a nuanced discussion will not find it here. What this book does provide is an exciting and often moving glimpse into Canadian participation in the Zionist story, from activism dating from the 19th century through ongoing co-operation between Canada and Israel.

Considering the central role that Zionism has played in the Jewish Canadian experience, and that Canada has played in the history of the State of Israel, there has been very little written on the subject.

Gerald Tulchinsky's histories of Canadian Jews, most recently, *Canada's Jews*, devote full chapters to Zionism;

Michael Brown and others have written short scholarly studies on aspects of Canadian Zionism. But, until now, there has not been a full volume dedicated to the subject.

Rekindling the Torch, like so many *firsts* in Jewish Canadian Studies, is the product of passionate writers who come to the subject as participants in the story, rather than formally trained scholars.

The book is unambiguously pro-Israel in its presentation of the story. The author, celebrated Canadian businessman and philanthropist David J. Azrieli, the power behind the construction of Israel's first indoor shopping mall and coiner of the Hebrew term *kanyon*, states: "More than a decade ago, when I served as president of the Canadian Zionist Federation, I promised myself that this exceptional story would be told, that the outstanding figures in Canadian Zionist history be identified and their accomplishments described."

The book comprises three very different sections.

The first section is the history of Canadian Zionism and

interweaves the Canadian story into a wider narrative of the State of Israel.

The second section offers an overview of the organizational structures of Canadian Zionism, including the many agencies and educational programs with a Zionist component.

The final section, *Canadian Zionism: Its People*, offers an alphabetical listing of major figures in Canadian Zionism.

Each of the sections is freestanding. I recommend reading the first section the way one would a novel with a gripping plotline and fascinating characters, and employing sections two and three as reference tools. The book is written in the trademark style of co-author, award-winning journalist and historian Joe King: lively text interspersed with short biographies and anecdotes that make the story come alive.

As an academic reviewing a history of Canadian Zionism, I approached this book with awareness of the prickly nature of the current political situation in Israel and an ingrained aversion to celebrations of heroism. However, I have to admit, there were parts of *Rekindling the Torch* that made me want to cheer the moxie of the Jewish Canadians featured in the story, in particular the young soldiers who participated in Israel's early military defence.

In many ways, this is a modern-day Chanukah story told on Canadian soil.

Carleton student combines bar life with football, Kabbalah and school

While all university students struggle with heavy course-loads alone, Gary Fine, a full-time Carleton University student, somehow manages to fit in a job promoting bars in the ByWard Market, sports, and Jewish learning into his packed schedule.

And during the winter break, Fine is planning to spend some time in Israel doing volunteer work, and is currently raising money for the Jewish National Fund's Sderot Indoor Playground Campaign, which will fund the largest indoor recreational centre in Israel.

Currently head of promotions at the Liquor Store Party Bar on York Street, Fine, 21, has always had an entrepreneurial streak.

"I had a long history of marketing under my belt before I even attempted to do club promotions," says Fine, who had done special promotions and door-to-door work before a friend asked him two years ago to help bartend at what was then a new bar, Tila Tequila.

Assigned to promote Thursday nights, Fine's self-designed flyers turned what was the week's slowest and least profitable night into its most popular.

"I built a name for myself in the city with all the other bar owners because they saw the job I did with Tila Tequila. Job offers started coming to me from other bars." Fine ended up working for York Entertainment, a group of bar owners with a number of popular venues in downtown Ottawa.

The winning formula he devised for Friday nights at the Liquor Store Party Bar – combining '80s, '90s and top 40 hits as *Flashback Fridays* – has led to a 600 per cent increase in profitability since it was introduced last December.

He finds that posting flyers on campuses and creating events on Facebook are as effective as buying airtime. Promotion is a game of numbers, he says, with the goal of informing as many people as possible.

Relating his job to his studies, after graduating next year he plans to apply social psychology to marketing by scientific-



Campus Life

Liana Shlien

ly measuring people's responses in a thesis.

While his work constitutes his social life, he also has football practice with the Ottawa Junior Riders (QJFL) three nights a week and games every weekend.

And he makes time for weekly Kabbalah sessions he takes with Rabbi Chaim Boyarsky of the Chabad Student Network.

Alana Kayfetz, director of Hillel Ottawa, the city's Jewish student association was his Birthright trip leader, and has asked Fine to use his skills to organize Hillel events, but he acknowledges this may not be easy.

"It's much more challenging getting Jews to come out to these events than to get hundreds of people to come to a club one night," he says.

Fine explains this is partly due to the relatively small community and the disconnection students experience towards their religion owing to the many obstacles of incorporating Jewish practice into daily life.

"We live in a society that doesn't facilitate being religious. Every Friday, what happens on Shabbat is that everything picks up pace. Everything around you is working against you."

He feels the answer may lie in creating "a core of young Jewish leaders" to popularize events.

"People will go if they are going. Once you get that started, people start talking, you get a buzz going and it will just grow from there."



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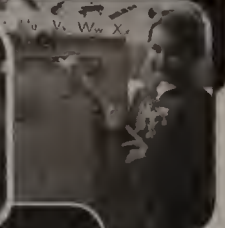
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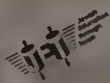


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AGES 7 - 16

TRANSPORTATION AND LIFTS

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Bus Returns 4.45 pm to the Soloway JCC

Minimum 20 participants required

For more information please call Jon Braun at 613-798-9818 ext. 267 or jbraun@jccottawa.com

WINTER BREAK CAMP



BASKETBALL CAMP • DEC. 22, 23 • 9 AM - 3.45 PM
(PRE - CAMP AND AFTER CAMP CARE FREE)

WORK ON YOUR GAME DURING THE HOLIDAY BREAK WITH
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Vacation time is a fun time, and that is exactly what this
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Please send a nut free and pareve lunch.

Monday Dec. 22	8:30 am to 4:00 pm (after-care available)
Tuesday Dec. 23	8:30 am to 4:00 pm (after-care available)
Wednesday Dec. 24	8:30 am to 4:00 pm (no after-care)
Monday Dec. 29	8:30 am to 4:00 pm (after-care available)
Tuesday Dec. 30	8:30 am to 4:00 pm (after-care available)
Wednesday Dec. 31	8:30 am to 4:00 pm (no after-care)
Friday Jan. 2	8:30 am to 3:00 pm (no after-care)

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	\$30 M/day (additional child)
	\$45 NM/day (additional child)

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This class is offered in conjunction with St. Johns Ambulance and serves to prepare future baby sitters for the challenges of looking after children. The material covered includes safety, conflict resolution, and emergency procedures. Participants will be expected to participate in both theory and practical elements and successfully complete a final test covering both areas to receive their certificate.

Monday December 29 • 9:00am - 4:00pm • \$65 M / \$85 NM • Ages 11 + • Instructor: St. Johns Ambulance (minimum of 10 participants needed per class)

ADULT PROGRAMS

Roslyn Brozovsky Wollock
613.798.9818 ext. 254 rwollock@jccottawa.com

get inspired



SOLOWAY JCC • Winter 2009

NEW! FACE TO FACE: AN ACTING WORKSHOP FOR ADULTS

January 18 - March 8 • 8 weeks
Sunday 10:30 am - 12:30 pm
\$80M / \$100NM • Instructor: Barry Karp

DROP IN ART STUDIO

January 19 - March 16 • 8 weeks
Monday 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm
\$64M / \$84NM No studio February 16 - Family Day

NEW! CHINESE BRUSH PAINTING

January 15 - March 5 • 8 weeks
Thursday 9:30 am - 11:30 am
\$80M / \$95NM • Instructor: Rowena Tolson

PAINTING: ACRYLICS & WATER-COLORS

January 20 - February 24 • 6 weeks
Tuesday 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm
\$64M / \$84NM • Instructor: Leonard Gerbrandt

STAINED GLASS MOSAIC - DAY WORKSHOP

Sunday February 1, 9:30 am - 4:00 pm (includes one hour lunch break)
\$95M / \$115NM • Cost includes \$30 supply fee
Please Note: pre-registration by January 26 is required.

TALLIT WEAVING

January 21 - February 25 • 6 weeks
Wednesday 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm
Instructor: Janet Martin

DIGITAL CAMERA WORKSHOP - BEGINNER

January 14 - February 25 • 7 weeks
Wednesday 10:30 am - 12:00 pm
\$90M / \$110NM • Instructor: Jim Lamont

NEW! CREATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY - INTERMEDIATE

In conjunction with aja 50+
January 14 - February 11 • 5 weeks
Wednesday 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm
\$75M / \$95NM • Instructor: Jim Lamont

GUITAR FROM SCRATCH

January 18 - February 22 • 6 weeks
Sunday 11:30 am - 12:30 pm
\$70M / \$85NM • Instructor: Steve Geyer

GUITAR FROM SCRATCH - LEVEL 2

January 18 - February 22 • 6 weeks
Sunday 12:35 pm - 1:35 pm
\$70M / \$85NM • Instructor: Steve Geyer

DRUMMING - TRADITIONAL RHYTHMS OF AFRICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

February 11 - March 4 • 4 weeks
Wednesday 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
\$80M / \$95NM • Instructor: Leo Brooks

CONVERSATIONAL HEBREW FOR BEGINNERS - LEVEL 2

January 13 - March 3 • 8 weeks
Tuesday 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
\$80M / \$95NM • Instructor: Miriam Litman

ADVANCED CONVERSATIONAL HEBREW - LEVEL 5

January 14 - March 4 • 8 weeks
Wednesday 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
\$96M / \$116NM • Instructor: Miriam Litman

ULPAN - INTENSIVE 3 HOUR INTERMEDIATE

January 18 - March 8 • 8 weeks
Sunday 9:30 am - 12:30 pm
\$185M / \$210NM • Instructor: Mina Cohn

BEGINNER SPANISH - LEVEL 2

January 15 - March 5 • 8 weeks
Thursday 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
\$95M / \$110NM • Instructor: Miguel Perez

SPANISH - ADVANCED

In conjunction with AJA 50+
January 15 - March 5 • 8 weeks
Thursday 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
\$95M / \$110NM • Instructor: Miguel Perez

CONVERSATIONAL FRENCH - CAFÉ AU LAIT AND CRÈME BRULÉ

In conjunction with AJA 50+
January 13 - February 17 • 6 weeks
Tuesday 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm
\$60M / \$75NM • Instructor: Ginette Raphael

NEW! DISCOVERING YOUR JEWISH ROOTS

Sunday February 8, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm
Instructors: Hymie Reichstein, John Oliner
*There is no charge for this workshop. Please register in advance 613-798-9818 ext. 254.

RED HOT BALLROOM - LEVEL 1 & 2

January 15 - March 19 • 10 weeks
Thursday 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
\$130M couple / \$160NM couple
Singles welcome • Instructor: Yvonne MacLeod

RED HOT BALLROOM - INTERMEDIATE

January 15 - March 19 • 10 weeks
Thursday 8:05 pm - 9:05 pm
\$130M couple / \$160NM couple • Singles welcome
Instructor: Yvonne MacLeod



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Cantor Daniel Benlolo • Vocals
Aviva Lightstone • Piano
Mike Mullin • Sax
Mike Pacitto • Guitar
Micah Solomon • Vocals
Dave Venson • Bass
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- To remember
- To congratulate
- To honour
- To say I care



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Cantor Benlolo in memory of your father Moise Benlolo by Fred and Lisa Cogan and family, by John & Gladys Greenberg, by Jackie, Lucian, Michael & Simon Sitwell

Mildred Bick in memory of your son Michael Bick by Sylvia Easdown

Lorraine Bloom in memory of Don Boyaner & Evelyn Boyaner by Gabriella, Tony & Mikayla Young

Barbara and Michael Buldovitch in memory of your dear mother Lillian by Hedy and Michael Segal

In memory of Liane Byrne by Noreen Taller-Harris

Mrs. R. Chaim & family in memory of Bella Sacharen by Mr. & Mrs. R. Kleiman

The family of the late Edith Chervin in memory of Edith Chervin by Elly & Al Bruner & family

Harry Cogan in memory of your wife Roz by John & Gladys Greenberg

Susannah Daffen in memory of your mother Alyce Cohen by Jackie, Kevin, Zack & Meredith Barwin, by Miriam & David Algom, by Sandy & Given MacKay-Smith

Ron Dagenais in memory of your wife Shirley by Fred & Lisa Cogan

Jacob Dahan in memory of your sister, Linda by Roz Taller & family

Marsha Davidson in memory of Uncle Charlie by Jackie, Kevin, Zack & Meredith Barwin

Colonel John F. Davies (RCAF ret'd) and family in memory of your wife June by Morris & Rose Kozick

Frances Dawson in memory of your sister Kathleen Haine by Lea & Isadore Kalin

Maureen & Lawrence Rabinovitch in memory of Miriam Delnick by the Riviers et al

Lil Evenchick & family in memory of Abbey Evanchick by Gladys & John Greenberg

Emma Fagen in memory of Joseph Romeniak by Eva Gelbman & family

Annie & David Garmaise in memory of your precious granddaughter Chaya Perel Mogilevsky by Nina Jason & Brian Byerley

Rabbi Steven Garten in memory of your mother Frances Garten by Marsha & Art Saper, by Marcia & Barry Cantor, by Nina Jason, Brian Byerley & family

Joyce Hershorn & Carol Parker in memory of your dear husband and father Bill Hershorn by Sarah & Hugh Shabsove

Geoff Hopkins in memory of your mother Irene Pukitis by Fred and Lisa Cogan & the guys

Murray Kaiserman and Family in memory of your mother Claire Kaiserman by Elly & Al Bruner & family, by Judith & Jack Weinman

Mark Kunins and Sue Potechin in memory of your beloved son, Aaron by Nina Jason, Brian Byerley & family

Shaina Lipsey, Morrie Paul and Family in memory of your beloved mother & grandmother

Annette Lipsey by Nina Jason, Brian Byerley & family

David Lipowski in memory of your mother Bela by Carol & Mark Froimovitch

Ron Loves in memory of your mother Iris Loves by Jackie, Kevin, Zack & Meredith Barwin

Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Markus in memory of Mary & Gerald Markus by Heather & David Goldfarb

Flore Mendelson & family in memory of a dear mother & grandmother Sonia Schnitzer by Art, Masha Saper & family

Lisa Miller in memory of your father Stephen Dworkin by Jackie, Kevin, Zack & Meredith Barwin

Ann Minden in memory of cousin Joe by Jackie, Kevin, Zack & Meredith Barwin

Ken Orenstein & Laurie Dougherty & family in memory of your beloved father & grandfather by Nina Jason & Brian Byerley & family

Jim Owens in memory of your mother Dorothy by Mark & Carol Froimovitch

Sue Potechin in memory of your beloved stepson, Aaron Kamins by Marcia & Barry Cantor

Frances Ross in memory of your father Abe Fleming by Miriam & David Algom

Janet Ruston & family in memory of your mother Anne V Marko by the Jason-Byerley family

Mr. H Sacharen & family in memory of Bella Sachareo by Mr. & Mrs. R. Kleiman

Shogilev family in memory of Ben Shogilev by Debbie & Lloyd Rossman

Ricarda Smith in memory of Max Brauer by Esther & Alan Williams

Leila Speisman & Family in memory of Stephen Speisman by Zelaine & Sol Shinder

David Spring & Barbara Levine in memory of your beloved father by Anita Dubinsky

Rhoda and Abe Weitzman in memory of your brother Daniel Wiener by Miriam & Mario Burke & family

Richard Wex in memory of your grandmother Molly Wex by Jackie, Kevin, Zack & Meredith Barwin

Michael Yachnin & family in memory of Daniel Yachnin by Nancy & Hal Shuster & family, by Lily Tobin & family, by Mindy Finkelstein & Roy Hanes & family

Refuah Shleima:

Esther Goldstein by Barbara and David Slipacoff and family

Wishing Good Health:

Brian Steck by Beverly & Abe Feinstein
Gerry Goldstein by Judith & Jack Weinman

Susan Livergant by Sandra Marchello
Laya Shabinsky by Marcia Cantor

Penny Torontow by Florlove, Ruth & Leon Katz

In Honour of:

Bernard "Bernie" Braen on your 80th birthday by Marilyn & David

Lily Due on the occasion of your baby naming ceremony by Auntie Florlove

Leslie & David Edmison congratulations-Mazel Tov by Rose Ann & Ron Hoffenberg

Patti Hershorn in celebration of life and your 65th birthday by Marjorie & Ben Aehbar

Johann & Lee Levinson on your 60th wedding anniversary by Rita Engels

Lou Levine on your 90th birthday by Leon & Ruth, Florlove, Geoffrey, Michael & Shelly & their families

Richard Mareau with deep appreciation by Congregation Beth Shalom

Dorothy Nadolny on your 75th birthday by Diana & Alvin Malomet

Morton Pleet on your special birthday by Ricki & Barry Baker, and by Alyce, Allan, Michael, Erin, Lauren Baker & family

Elsie Polonsky on your special birthday by Ricki & Barry Baker

Dr. Steven Rubin on your 65th birthday by Ketty & Morris Samel

Denise & Kenneth Russell in celebration of your 50th wedding anniversary by Marilyn Goodman Galbraith

Howard Sander and family Thank you for your beautiful photographs of the Ottawa Klezmer Band. Thank you for your beautiful website. May you all be blessed with good health throughout 5769 by Florlove Katz

Terry Schwarzfeld on the occasion of your important birthday by Marsha & Art Saper & family

Stephen & Gail Victor Thank you for your kindness by Sandra Marchello

Rhoda and Abe Weitzman Shana Tova a sweet year and thank you for inviting us to your celebrations by Eileen, Stuart, Josh & Amanda McCarthy

Mazel Tov to:

Rabbi & Mrs. Ely Braun on your anniversary, special birthday and the successes of your children by Marcia & Barry Cantor

Barbara Crook and Dan Greenberg on being honoured by Jewish National Fund by Sarah & Amie Swedler

Yaron Golombick & Marcia Hogeling on your upcoming wedding by Susan Greenberg

Sophie & Neil Frenkel on the birth of your granddaughter Charlotte Isabel by Susan, Charles, Jaclyn & Paul Schwartzman

Dr. and Mrs. David Greenberg on the birth of your twin granddaughters by Alice & Allan Baker

Evan Louis Gruda on your Bar Mitzvah by Miriam & Isaac Farbasz

Bernard & Cecille Hattin on your 60th wedding anniversary by your children, grandchildren & great-grandchildren

Molly Hirsch & Eric Elkin on the engagement of your son Ben to Natalie by

Beverly & Abe Feinstein

Jackie Holzman on receiving the United Way Community Builder Award by Lisa & Fred Cogan

Lea and Yitzhak Kalin on your 60th wedding anniversary by the Yiddish Class, by Rochelle & Brian Pearl

Yitzhak Kamil on becoming Bar Mitzvah by Steven, Jenny & Isaac Glassman

Shelli & Steven Kimmel on Leora's engagement to Ben by Marcia & Barry Cantor

Esther and Irving Kulik on the birth of your twin grandsons, by Marcia & Barry Cantor

Amos Langsner on the birth of your baby brother Elias by Judith & David Kalin

Toby Langsner on the birth of your baby brother Elias by Judith & David Kalin

Berta and Ian Leoneanu on the birth of your son by Sheryl & Harvey Kardish

Isaac Lieff on your Bar Mitzvah by Sara and Leslie Breiner

Aunt Ethel & Uncle Eddy Machtinger on your 67th wedding anniversary by Arthur, Gittel & the family

Lily and Jerry Penso on your 50th wedding anniversary by Rochelle & Brian Pearl

Lois & Nate Ratson on your 50th anniversary by Donna & Mickey Finkelstein

Shelley Rothman on the sale of Progeny by Marcia and Barry Cantor

Ketty & Morris Samel on Steven's upcoming marriage to Heather Berk by Marcia & Barry Cantor

Brenda and Stephen Saslove on the birth of your granddaughter, Rachel Gahrielle by Noreen Taller-Harris

Shelly & Morris Schaechnow on your 50th wedding anniversary by Brian & Rochelle Pearl

Jordan Schwartz on receiving your Masters by Auntie Rosalie, Uncle Harold, Leah, Josh & Naomi

Ben Singer on becoming Bar Mitzvah by Miriam Sandberg-Maitland

Rhea Singer on becoming Bat Mitzvah by Miriam Sandberg-Maitland

Adam Tashis on becoming Bar Mitzvah by Steven, Jenny & Isaac Glassman

Carol Tenenbaum on the marriage of your son, Errol by Marsha & Art Saper & family

Helen and Rick Zipes on the birth of your twin grandchildren Audrey & Griffen by Judith & David Kalin

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and are fully tax receiptable.**

JNF thanks you for your
generous contribution.

Please accept our apologies
if we misspelled or omitted
anyone's name or contribution.

NCSY offers Jewish culture clubs at public high schools

By Ariana
Sculnick-Bercovitch,
Grade 9, President,
Canterbury High School
Jewish Culture Club

For five years, NCSY has sponsored Jewish culture clubs in Ottawa public high schools.

Powered by enthusiastic, motivated students and NCSY leaders, Bram Bregman and Gaby Searowsky, the clubs are the places to be. With free pizza and in-depth discussions focused on Jewish thought and ideals, there is never a bored face.

"It's very important for Jewish teenagers in their formative years to have positive Jewish experiences," says Bregman, executive director of NCSY Ottawa.

"With 94 per cent of our Jewish teenagers attending public high schools, we need to bring these experiences to them in an environment which is both comfortable and convenient."

Over the past few years the number of Jewish Culture Clubs in Ottawa has grown and there are now clubs at Canterbury High School, Glebe Collegiate, Sir Robert Borden High School, Merivale High School, John McCrae Secondary School, Earl of March Secondary School and Sir Guy Carleton High School.

"A lot of Jewish teens at public schools don't regularly interact with other Jews, so the club gives them an opportunity to socialize with people from similar backgrounds," says Ilana Hadad, president of the Sir Robert Borden High School Jewish Culture Club.

"It's also very rare for the average teen to get excited about something related to religion, so it's great to be involved with something that gives them a little taste

of Judaism and makes it fun too."

The programs offered by the clubs include sushi classes, challah braiding, Shabbat/Havdalah candle making, discussions, debates, parties for Chanukah and Purim, chocolate Pesach seders, gingerbread sukkahs, Israeli dancing, independent Jewish films, Jewish Pictionary and Jewish music jam sessions.

And they are constantly coming up with new program ideas.

Getting involved in the Jewish culture clubs is a fun and easy way to get involved in the Jewish community. It presents opportunities for volunteering and also to join NCSY's Torah High, which is a Jewish studies program for high school credits.

"I was reluctant to come to the club – there were lots of people I didn't know. But Bram involved us in a fun activity and soon I became friends with everyone there," says Leah Vininsky-Oakes, who is now president of Glebe Collegiate Jewish Culture Club.

"Afterwards, I felt a strange connection to my Judaism that I definitely hadn't felt before. I always feel so much more connected to my Judaism afterwards. It really helps me be proud of being Jewish in a group of non-Jews."

"Through the club, I was introduced to Torah High and even spent a month in Israel."

It is my belief that getting involved with both your school and your community is a positive way to channel your energy and an essential part of a good high school experience.

Each session we have at our Jewish culture club at Canterbury High School brings positive energy. The



The Canterbury High School Jewish Culture Club celebrates Chanukah.

discussions are always lively and full of different opinions from feisty teenagers. It's a place where students discover they have opinions, or formulate opinions, about things they never gave much thought to.

Recently, David Shentow, a Holocaust survivor, came to speak to the Canterbury High School Jewish Culture Club.

More than 200 students, teachers and parents came to listen to his incredible story. Not one person there was dry-eyed and everyone was so unbelievably moved by his story. Events such as this one are what make the Jewish culture clubs so worth all the time and effort.

"The Jewish culture club has been an important factor in bringing more Jewish concepts and philosophy to our Jewish students," says Larry Lithwick, teacher supervisor of the Canterbury High School Jewish Culture Club.

"Many discussions have a Jewish ethical base that students find both enlightening and refreshing and it gives some of them a new sense of identity and inclusiveness that may not have previously existed."

I encourage all students, Jewish and non-Jewish, to try the Jewish culture clubs. There is always a good time waiting!

Jewish culture clubs are funded through the Jewish Federation of Ottawa and by private donations.

For more information, contact Bram Bregman at 613-262-6279 or by e-mail at bram@ncsy.ca.

Join us for a Book Club discussion on:

*Using Jewish Teachings to Raise
Self-Reliant Children*

The Blessing of a Broken Home



**Mondays: Dec 22, Jan 12, Jan 19, Jan 26,
Feb 2, Feb 9, Feb 16, Feb 23**

at the Jewish Youth Library of Ottawa
192 Switzer Avenue (near Carling/Kirkwood)
613-729-7712 or 729-1619 www.jylofottawa.org

Time: 10:30 to 11:30 am

Led by: Devora Caylak and Nili Szilagyi

Cost: No charge, just buy the book

Ottawa Celebrity Sports Dinner a tremendous success

By Mitch Miller

Wednesday, November 12 was another successful evening for those who planned, organized and benefited from the Ottawa Celebrity Sports Dinner.

Chair Stuart Ages and his team put on a great event that benefited the Soloway Jewish Community Centre, the Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation, Rogers House and the Ottawa Senators Foundation.

The evening began with VIP attendees being treated to a more intimate meet-and-greet with such hockey heroes as Paul Henderson, Yvan Cournoyer, Pete Mahovlich, Dale Hawerchuk, Darryl Sittler and many more.

The prestigious Brian Kilrea

Award, which recognizes the efforts of an Ottawa sports personality who has demonstrated an ongoing commitment to community leadership and the advancement of charitable causes, was presented to the Ottawa Senators CEO Cyril Leeder, an outstanding community supporter.

One of the highlights of the evening was when MC Rod Black asked all of the celebrities to stand – and then asked everyone to hug their celebrity.

"I told the guy to stop feeling my hack pocket; I keep my wallet in my jacket," said Mahovlich.

It was a memorable evening for all, and we're already looking forward to next year.



Ottawa Senators right winger Daniel Alfredsson with a group of young fans at the Ottawa Celebrity Sports Dinner. (Photo: Peter Walser)

Recreational hockey tournament next month in Israel

By Irv Osterer

The third annual International Israel Ice Hockey Tournament will take place from January 20 to 22, 2009 at the Canada Centre in Metulla as participants from Israel, Canada, the U.S. and France take part in the six-team tournament primarily featuring both men and women players who are 35 years of age or older with each team allowed up to five younger players.

Teams are limited to 15 skaters and three goalies. Individuals of all skill levels may also register and

will be placed on teams that have space available.

Recreational non-contact hockey has been played in Israel under the auspices of the Israel Recreational Hockey Association (IRHA) since 2004. According to league commissioner Danny Spodek, there is a core group of regulars and a few new skaters are always accommodated at the regular Thursday night games.

Spodek's experience as league commissioner has proved to be a valuable resource in his role as co-

chair of the annual tournament sponsored by the IRHA. The other co-chair is Harry Harsztark of New Jersey.

Remarkably, Spodek and Harsztark organized the first tournament in 2006 via e-mail. The two dentists only met face to face for the first time in Israel, the day before the games began. Four teams took part in the inaugural affair, which featured American and Canadian contingents, an IRHA group and the Israeli national team. Despite the non-contact format, the

much younger Israeli Nats beat the 35- to 65-year-olds on the recreational teams by a wide margin.

Spodek and Harsztark revived the tournament in 2008 after a one-year hiatus. Players from Canada, the U.S. and Israel took part and, this time, the three contingents were well matched. Three of the games went into overtime, and many were decided by a single goal.

The late-January schedule provides participants with the most economical time of the year for travel to Israel, and tournament organizers have negotiated reasonable rates for accommodation at K'far Giladi.

Tournament costs per player are

\$300-\$400 (depending on one's registration date) and include all ice time, a team jersey, a tournament T-shirt, a baseball cap and admission to a kosher awards banquet. Coaches, family members and friends are also encouraged to attend for a reduced price that will include most amenities, including access to the outstanding recreational facilities at the Canada Centre. Weather permitting, skiing on Mount Hermon can be arranged, as well as a guided tour of Israel's northern frontier.

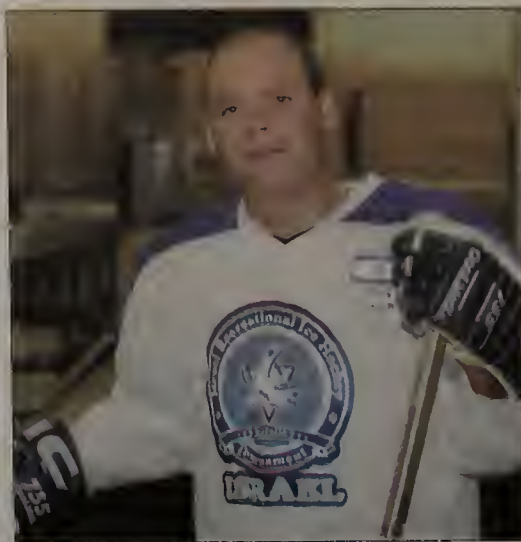
For more information and registration forms, visit www.israelhockeyassociation.org.

You can also e-mail Spodek at Israel_Hockey@hotmail.com.

Teens for the Community



Students from Teens for the Community (TFC), a program of the Chabad Student Network of Ottawa, recently packed 93 gift baskets for the mothers and fathers of Canadian soldiers who have died in Afghanistan. (Left to right): Sarah Cogan, Ilana Hadad, Hilary Hendin, Leah Vininsky-Oakes, Ilana Krug and Tara Wakter.



Player Eytan Bar-Chama at the 2008 International Israel Ice Hockey Tournament.



Camp B'nai Brith of Montreal

Group 1: Sunday, June 28 - Thursday, July 23
Starter Camp: Sunday, June 28 - Sunday, July 12

Group 2: Sunday, July 26 - Thursday, August 20
Starter Camp: Sunday, July 26 - Sunday, August 9

Boys and Girls Resident Camp Age 8 - 16

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*Happy Chanukah
to the
Ottawa Jewish
Community*

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Hillel Academy graduate named Killam Fellow

By Toby Herscovitch
Daniel Herscovitch, who graduated from Hillel Academy in 2002, will be heading to Clemson University in South Carolina for the semester beginning in January as the Killam Fellow from McGill University.

This prestigious scholarship program selects exceptional undergraduate students from various colleges and

universities to participate in an academic and residential exchange between Canada and the United States. Daniel, a third year student in civil engineering at McGill, is one of only 30 students selected for the 2008-2009 program.

After graduating from Hillel, he attended Sir Robert Borden High School in Ottawa.

The Killam Fellowship is

designed to encourage mutual understanding between the citizens of Canada and the United States through academic and cultural exchange.

The program is administered by the Foundation for Educational Exchange between Canada and the United States and is supported by the American Killam Trusts, Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada and the U.S. Department of State. The foundation also runs the renowned Canada-U.S. Fulbright exchange program for graduate students, faculty, professionals and researchers.

"I'm really excited to be going to study in the United States just at the moment that the new president-elect will be inaugurated. I'm also keen to learn more about the southern United States and to bring a Canadian perspective to my fellow students," said Daniel. "I understand that Clemson University has a small Jewish community and



Daniel Herscovitch

I look forward to connecting with them and learning about their experiences as well."

As part of the Killam program, Daniel participated in an orientation in Ottawa this past September, which brought together Killam Fellows and Fulbright scholars for academic and cultural activities. A wrap-up seminar in Washington, D.C. will be held in the spring.

In spring 2008, Daniel was also selected as an SNC-Lavalin Award winner. The Award included a scholarship toward his studies this year and an internship last summer with the company, one of the leading engineering and construction groups in the world.

For more information about the Killam program visit killamfellowships.com.



Judaic Outreach Programs January - February 2009

Alison Caplan, Judaic Administrative Assistant • 613-725-3519

Adele Horwitz, Judaic Program Leader • 613-592-8365

Date	Program	Place	Time
Wednesdays Jan 7, 14, 21, 28	Advanced Judaic Studies Adele Horwitz	Day Program 11 Nadolny Sachs	5:45 - 6:45
Wednesdays Jan 7, 14, 21, 28	Joys of Judaism Adele Horwitz/Leo Lightstone	Day Program 11 Nadolny Sachs	6:45 - 7:45
Thursdays Jan 7, 14, 21, 28	Tamir Choir Cantor Benlolo 11 Nadolny Sachs	Day Program	6:15 - 7:15
Thursdays Jan 7, 14, 21, 28	Sing and Play Along Adele Horwitz	842 Broadview	4:00 - 5:00
Thursdays Jan 7, 14, 21, 28	Yiddishkeit Delights Adele Horwitz	840 Broadview	5:00 - 5:30
Friday January 9	Community Shabbat RSVP Alison Caplan	Tamir Day Program 11 Nadolny Sachs	5:30 - 7:30
Friday and Saturday January 23 and 24	Tamir Shabbaton Contact Alison Caplan for details	Beth Shalom	
Wednesdays Feb 4, 11, 18, 25	Advanced Judaic Studies Adele Horwitz	Day Program 11 Nadolny Sachs	5:45 - 6:45
Wednesdays Feb 4, 11, 18, 25	Joys of Judaism Adele Horwitz/Leo Lightstone	Day Program 11 Nadolny Sachs	6:45 - 7:45
Thursdays Feb 5, 12, 19, 26	Tamir Choir Cantor Benlolo	Day Program 11 Nadolny Sachs	6:15 - 7:15
Thursdays Feb 5, 12, 19, 26	Sing and Play Along Adele Horwitz	842 Broadview	4:00 - 5:00
Thursdays Feb 5, 12, 19, 26	Yiddishkeit Delights Adele Horwitz	840 Broadview	5:00 - 5:30
Sunday February 8	Joint Tu Bshvat program Contact Alison Caplan	Tamir Boardroom	TBD
Monday February 9	Tamir/Chabad Joint Tu Bshvat Contact Alison Caplan	Tamir Day Program	5:30 - 8:00
Friday February 22	Community Shabbat RSVP Alison Caplan	Tamir Day Program 11 Nadolny Sachs	5:30 - 7:30



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Story Hour promotes early literacy

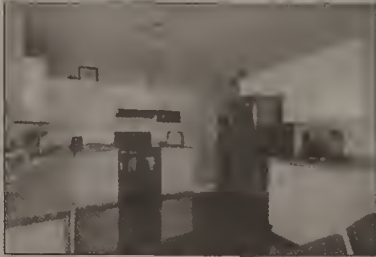
By Devora Caytak
Jewish Youth Library
Parents, grandparents and caregivers are welcome to bring young children, aged four and under, to the Jewish Youth Library for the Sunday morning Story Hour held weekly from 10 until 11:30 am.

Story Hour at the Jewish Youth Library is funded by a recent grant from the *Raise-a-Reader* program of the Canwest Foundation and affords young children the opportunity to hear a story, enjoy some valuable play-time and home-baked snacks, and to make a creative craft.

The fee is \$5 per child and no pre-registration is required. The fee is waived for special needs children from Friendship Circle families.

The Jewish Youth Library is at 192 Switzer Avenue. Call 613-729-7712 for more information.

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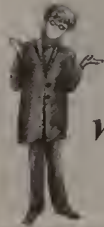


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Jacques Torres Chocolate Chip Cookies

Makes 18 five-inch cookies

- 2 cups minus 2 tablespoons (8 1/2 ounces) cake flour
- 1 2/3 cups (8 1/2 ounces) bread flour
- 1 1/4 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 1/2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 2 1/2 sticks (10 ounces) unsalted butter
- 1 1/4 cups (10 ounces) light brown sugar
- 1 cup plus 2 tablespoons (8 ounces) granulated sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 1/4 pounds bittersweet chocolate discs or coarsely chopped bittersweet chocolate (at least 60 per cent cacao content)

Fleur de sel

Sift flours, baking soda, baking powder and salt into a bowl. Set aside.

In the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, cream together butter and sugars until light, about 5 minutes. Add eggs, one at a time, mixing well after each addition. Stir in vanilla. Reduce speed to low and add dry ingredients and mix until just combined, 5 to 10 seconds.

Drop chocolate pieces in and incorporate them without breaking them. Press plastic wrap against dough and refrigerate for 24-36 hours.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line baking sheets with parchment paper and set aside.

Scoop six 3 1/2 ounce mounds of dough (the size of generous golf balls) onto baking sheet. Sprinkle lightly with fleur de sel and bake until golden brown but still soft, about 18-20 minutes.

Transfer sheet to wire rack for 10 minutes. Then slip cookies onto another rack to cool a bit more. Repeat with remaining dough.

Mazal Tov!

Engaged!

With great excitement Shelli and Steven Kimmel announce the engagement of their daughter Leora to Benjamin Greene, son of Sari Greene and Donald Greene of Maine. Proud grandparents are Morris Kimmel of Ottawa and Hilda Greene of New Hampshire. Excited siblings are Ariella and Dalia Kimmel and Max Greene.



It's a girl!

FRENKEL-DIAMOND, Sharon and Mark are ecstatic to announce the safe arrival of their precious daughter, Charlotte (Charlie) Isabelle Diamond in Ottawa on November 2, 2008 weighing 9 lbs 14 oz. Proud great-grandmother Dora in Israel, grandparents Sophie and Neil Frenkel of Ottawa and Carole and Mayer Diamond of Montreal. Excited aunts and uncles are Josh, Howie and Amanda, Bena and Andy, Tiffany and Benj. BH



The joys of salted chocolate

Several weeks ago, I made a discovery at the grocery store that literally made my heart beat a little faster. Lindt Excellence Dark Chocolate seasoned with fleur de sel.

Fleur de sel is a hand-harvested sea salt collected by workers who scrape only the top layer of salt before it sinks to the bottom of large salt pans. Traditional French fleur de sel is collected off the Brittany coast.

You may be thinking that salt and chocolate would be a weird combination, but, when you think about the role of salt in cooking, it makes perfect sense.

Salt's job is to coax out and expand on the flavour of food. It enhances and rounds out flavour and makes everything seem to come together. This is the reason almost every baking recipe calls for a little bit of salt. Without it, the baked goods would taste flat.

Before this discovery, I used to have to dump a box of milk duds into my popcorn bag to get my salted chocolate fix. Now I have it all in one bar. How convenient. Sort of like shampoo and conditioner '2 in 1' products all in one bottle, but much tastier!

At \$3.29 for a 100 gram bar, this is chocolate to be savoured. Take a small piece and let it melt slowly in your mouth. Within a few minutes, you will discover the crunchy flakes of fleur de sel. It's magical.

If you're feeling adventurous, here are a couple of recipes that take advantage of the power of salt and chocolate. Instead of the traditional Chanukah chocolate gelt, treat your family and friends to these chocolate treats.

The first recipe is for chocolate chip cookies. These are not your traditional chocolate chip cookies.

The recipe comes from master *chocolatier* Jacques Torres. It is unusual on several fronts. Instead of all-purpose flour, this recipe calls for a mixture of bread flour and cake flour. Instead of chocolate chips, it calls for chocolate discs. These are large ovals of chocolate, at least five times bigger than the typical chocolate chip and made from dark chocolate. I finally sourced them at chefshop.com (enter 'Valrhona Manjari Dark Couverture 64%' into the search box). If you can't get the chocolate discs, just use large chunks of any good quality dark chocolate (at least 60 per cent cacao content). The cacao percentage is marked on most brands of better quality chocolate.

The final thing that sets these chocolate chip cookies apart from others is that the dough rests in the fridge for 36 hours before baking. As chef and biochemist Shirley O. Corriher explains, "Allowing the dough and other ingredients to fully soak up the liquid – in this case eggs – gives you a drier and



Made with Love

Cindy Feingold

firmer dough, which bakes to a better consistency."

The first time I made these cookies, I baked them after chilling the dough for just one hour. They were very good. Then I decided to give the longer chilling time a try. I waited the requisite 36 hours (some of the raw dough evaporated over this long waiting period) and baked them. They were outstanding. They baked up more evenly and had a richer, more toffee-like, flavour.

The second recipe is for hesitant bakers. Although you use the oven, you are not really baking, just melting. When I saw Giada De Laurentiis make these on *Everyday Italian* (Food Network), they reminded me of large Chanukah gelt.

Caramel Nut Chocolate Gelt

Makes 24 candies

If you use pecans, the finished candies are reminiscent of *Turtles*.

- 1/2 cup (about 3 ounces) toasted slivered almonds, or toasted pecans, coarsely chopped
- 24 individually wrapped caramel candies (about 6 ounces)
- 2 cups (about 12 ounces) bittersweet chocolate, coarsely chopped
- 6 tablespoons cream, room temperature
- Fleur de sel

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.

Lightly grease two mini-muffin tins with vegetable oil spray. Place 1 teaspoon of slivered almonds or chopped pecans in each of the muffin cups. Unwrap the caramel candies, cut each candy into quarters and place 4 quarters (1 candy) in each of the muffin cups on top of the nuts in a single layer.

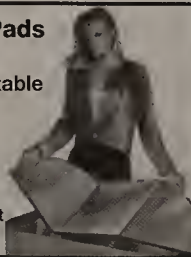
Bake in the oven until the caramel is just melted and beginning to spread, about 5-6 minutes. Be careful not to over melt the caramel or it will bubble, burn, and become too hard. Place the mini-muffin tins in the refrigerator for 5 minutes to cool. Remove the nut clusters from the tins and set aside.

Meanwhile, melt the bittersweet chocolate in a double boiler over low heat. Whisk cream into the chocolate to slightly thin the chocolate for coating the clusters. Dip nut clusters in the bittersweet chocolate and using a fork carefully lift clusters out of melted chocolate and place on a parchment paper-lined baking sheet. Sprinkle lightly with fleur de sel. Return the clusters to the refrigerator to harden, about 30 minutes.

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Talking like a real Yiddish speaker

The other day, I met a friend I had not seen for a couple of weeks. For a month before that, he had a strange and strained expression on his face. But, every time I saw him and asked how he was, he gave me that artificial smile and said, "Fine, couldn't be better."

So, this last time, when I asked him how he was and he said, "Don't even ask," I was intrigued.

What had happened?

"You don't want to know," he said.

"No, really, I want to know. What happened?"

"You remember how every time you saw me and asked me how I was, I said, 'fine.'"

"Yeah."

"Well, I started to answer the same way in Yiddish and my Yiddish-speaking friends became concerned. They told me that, since the publication of Michael Wex's book, *Born to Kvetch*, answering 'fine' to the question, 'How are you?' indicated some fundamental malaise. So I went to see our other friend, the Yiddish-speaking psychologist."

"So?"

"So, when I walked in and he asked, 'How are you?' in Yiddish and I answered, 'fine,' also in Yiddish, he got this strange expression on his face and said, 'That can't be right. No Yiddish speaker can answer that way and mean it. You must be repressing something.'"

"What do you mean?" I said.

"He looked me square in the eye and said, 'Think! Did you ever used to answer that way? Listen, come in and lie down on my couch and we will explore this further.'"

"And what happened?"

"Don't rush me. You want to know or not?"

"OK, OK."

"So, we go through the greeting exercise again and again. I say 'fine' and he says, 'really, everything's fine? What about your kids?' So I start saying I have lovely kids and I love them and really they are wonderful and I am fine even though they wrecked my car last week. I can't complain, although now that you mention it, it bothers me and, oh God, why do I have such careless kids?"

"The psychologist says, 'Good, that's a little better. And how is your lovely wife?'"

"And I say that my wife is great and beautiful and so generous and everything is fine and he says, 'Really, everything is fine?' And I say, 'Well, I was disappointed that my wife burned the meatloaf to a crisp, but, hey, I like the burned taste and the fact that she has maxed out the credit card on clothes doesn't really bother me, but, damn it, why can't she watch what she spends? And whoever thought that a modest girl could turn into such a spendthrift. And why did I have to be blessed with a wife who cleans out my bank account? Oy vey!'"

"So, then psychologist says, 'Now we're getting some place. And how is your clothing business?'"



Humour me, please

Rubin Friedman

"And I say, 'My business is fine. My partner is a great guy, everything is fine and last month profits were up and costs were down and everything would be super except my partner absconded with all of the money and all of the merchandise and now I don't even have a pair of pants to wear! That game! He should grow like an onion with his head in the ground and his feet in the air! Oy Gevalt un Geshrigen!'"

"So the psychologist says, 'Now you're getting back to normal. You're in great shape!'"

"So how do you feel?" I asked.

"Feel? How do you think I feel? I feel like I am in great shape – the shape you're in when you're run over by a truck!"

I smiled and said, "Now you're talking like a real Yiddish speaker!"

From fusions of klezmer with bluegrass and jazz to an edgy classical cellist

The three excellent CDs featured this time around range from Margot Leverett's delightful klezmer and bluegrass fusion, to the klezmer-jazz mixture of the Klez Dispensers and the edgy classical music of Kristina Reiko Cooper.

Margot Leverett and the Klezmer Mountain Boys
2nd Avenue Square Dance
Traditional Crossroads
klezmermountainboys.com

One of my favourite klezmer CDs in recent years has been Margot Leverett and the Klezmer Mountain Boys, a 2003 album that teamed Leverett, a great clarinetist who was a founding member of the Klezmatics, with four musicians – fiddler Kenny Kosek, mandolinist Barry Mitterhoff, guitarist Joe Selly and bassist Marty Confurius – rooted in bluegrass, but very much at home with klezmer music.

Could a fusion of klezmer, Jewish music rooted in Eastern Europe, and bluegrass, string band music developed in the American South after the Second World War, work? The answer is a resounding yes. Leverett's clarinet mixes beautifully with the stringed instruments in a set that weaves klezmer and bluegrass tunes in and out of each other. In both the old country and the new, klezmer musicians have intermingled with musicians from many other genres and come up with marvelous new ways of playing Jewish music and redefining Jewish music.

It's been five years, but Leverett's second collaboration with the Klezmer Mountain Boys has finally been released and the wait has been worth it. The new album, *2nd Avenue Square Dance* picks up where the first one left off as it moves seamlessly from bluegrass standards like Bill Monroe's "Stoney Lonesome" to traditional klezmer fare like "Bereasca."

The CD features a number of stellar guest musicians interacting with the band. They include guitarist Jorma Kaukonen of Jefferson Airplane and Hot Tuna fame, legendary bluegrass singer Hazel Dickens and innovative banjo virtuoso Tony Trischka.

Kaukonen's electric guitar playing brings rock and blues influences to several tunes, including "Electric Kugel," a piece he co-wrote with Leverett, while Dickens shines on "Little Moses," a traditional bluegrass song about the baby found by the pharaoh's daughter who grew up to lead his people from slavery to freedom.

There are also several pieces without the Klezmer Mountain Boys that feature Leverett collaborating with such artists as fiddler Darol Anger and Klezmer Conservatory Band leader Hankus Netsky.

This album is already as much a favourite as its predecessor.

The Klez Dispensers
Say You'll Understand
The Klez Dispensers
klezdispensers.com

On their third album, the Klez Dispensers offer up an enjoyable program centred on Yiddish theatre songs and their own original tunes in the klezmer-jazz tradition of old-to-new-world masters like Dave Tarras.

Although their previous release was primarily instrumental music, about half of this set throws the spotlight on singer Susan Watts, whose jazz-inflected vocal highlights include a swinging version of "Oy Mame" and a torchy rendition of "Sheyn Vi Di Levone." Violinist Amy Zakar and bassist Heather Chrisaden Versace add their voices to Watts to fill out the Andrews-Sisters-sound needed for an uptempo rendition of the almost-inevitable "Bay Mir Bistu Sheyn" that ends the CD.

Five of the Dispensers contribute original material. Pianist Adrian Banner's "Ray Charleston" combines elements of klezmer, swing, bop and blues into a sweet amalgam, while trumpet player Ben Holmes' "Millville Freylekh" is a delightfully celebratory dance tune. Clarinetist Alex Kortorovich's "Sirba" is a tour de force for his own solos and the band's ensemble playing.

But perhaps the real highlight of the CD is "Goldenshteyn Sirbas," a medley of traditional tunes from the repertoire of



Music

Michael Regensteinf

German Goldenshteyn, the late Eastern European master of traditional Jewish music, who brought a living repertoire of previously unheard old world klezmer tunes to North America in the 1990s. The Klez Dispensers do his legacy proud.

Kristina Reiko Cooper
Stone and Steel
Linus
kristinoreikocooper.com

Stone and Steel by cellist Kristina Reiko Cooper, the artistic director of the Israel Chamber Music Society and a professor of music at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, is a stunning classical album with a rock edge. Working with pianist John Novacek and drummer/percussionist Satoshi Takeishi, Cooper displays extraordinary technique whether on a quiet baroque pieces like "Dido's Lament" or an instrumental arrangement of an aria from Henry Purcell's opera *Dido and Aeneas*, or bowing with wild abandon on composer John Dowland's "George Whitehead's Allemand."

The album's high point comes in the title track, "Stone and Steel," an 11-minute contemporary piece composed for Cooper by Patrick Zimmerli, that shifts through many moods and classical styles before coming to its jazz-influenced conclusion.

Music note: This year's Canadian Folk Music Awards ceremony was held November 23 in St. John's, Newfoundland, and two of the awards were won by CDs covered in this column. The Sisters of Sheynville, an all-woman band from Toronto steeped in the Yiddish-swing music of the 1930s and '40s, won the Vocal Group of the Year award for their CD, *Sheynville Express*. And David Buchbinder's *Odessa/Havana*, a group that plays a fusion of klezmer and Afro-Cuban jazz, won the World Group of the Year award for their album, *Odessa/Havana*.

Chanukah books that shine the light on families

In very different ways, the three Chanukah books reviewed below have a common theme: family. One deals with family stories and memories. Another interweaves pre-teen angst and sibling rivalry with the true meaning of both Chanukah and family. The third is a peek at an Israeli family that grows olives and uses the oil to light the Chanukah menorah. Any way they write it, Chanukah time is definitely family time.

Latkes

By Bob Bossin

Illustrated by Sima Elizabeth Shefrin

Nick Books 2007

48 pages. Ages 10 and up.

This thoroughly enjoyable Chanukah book came to my attention courtesy of my editor, Michael Regensstreif. The author is a well-known Canadian folk singer friend of his who wrote and published this story as a chapbook. The story won second prize in the *Antigonish Review's* 2007 Sheldon Currie Fiction Contest.

Partly a fictionalized family story, partly a variation on classic Jewish folklore, and partly an imagined encounter with the Baal Shem Tov, *Latkes* is set in Toronto in 1960. The Bossin family has come together to celebrate the first night of Chanukah when "it snowed like hell." As a result of being snowed in, the usually silent Uncle Davy, the bookie, becomes a storyteller. And what a story he has to tell!

It's about the author's zeyde, Zussman Bossin, and Chanukah happenings in the old country town of Brusilov, where Zeyde had been the *baal tefilah*. Included among the story's many delightful elements are the miracle of giving latkes to God because of a Sephardic Jew's misinterpretation of Yiddish, the sighting of the long dead Baal Shem Tov and his prediction that Zussman will immigrate to America, and the intergenerational turmoil that frequently resulted from the transition between the Old World and the New.

Written with a distinct bow to Damon Runyon, *Latkes* is a welcome reminder that our family celebrations are a continuation, with some variations, of traditions we've grown to love through the generations.

Although I don't normally provide purchasing information, I'm making an exception in this case because I don't know how else readers would find this out. *Latkes* is avail-



By Rebecca O'Connell;
illustrated by Majella Lue Sue

able at bossin.com/latkes for \$12 to Canadian addresses or \$15 to the U.S.

Penina Levine is a Potato Pancake

By Rebecca O'Connell

Illustrated by Majella Lue Sue

Roaring Brook Press 2008

136 pages. Ages 10 and up.

Penina Levine is a Potato Pancake is very much a pre-teen girl's story full of angst, exaggeration and humour. It's Chanukah, but, instead of everything going right for our feisty heroine, absolutely everything is going wrong. Her



Kid Lit

Deanna Silverman

much younger sister Mimsy is constantly hogging the spotlight, whether in selecting candles for the menorah, deciding when the gifts are to be distributed or even when bringing dry socks to Penina at school.

To make matters worse, Penina's all-time favourite teacher, Mrs. Brown, is taking an indefinite leave of absence; her best friend Zozo will be tripping off to Aruba for the winter break; and, much as she loves her Grandma and Grandpa, Penina doesn't seem to be able to get along with them either. In fact, Grandma actually calls Penina her "revenge."

Along the way, the story of Chanukah is told, its customs and traditions are observed, Penina and Zozo cook up 27 different varieties of latkes, cut out oodles of paper snowflakes and support each other. Family and friends enjoy one of the biggest blizzards ever, a delightful Chanukah party, and, wonder of wonder, Penina finally realizes Mimsy isn't such a terrible sister after all. And that's what makes *Penina Levine is a Potato Pancake* so much mouth-watering fun!

Harvest of Light

By Allison Ofanansky

Photographs by Eliyahu Alpern

Kar-Ben Publishing 2008

32 pages. Ages 3-7.

Harvest of Light is a charming photo essay picture book about an Israeli family that grows olives both for food and for pressing into oil for the family's Chanukah menorah.

Told from the joyful perspective of the daughter who is finally old enough to help with the work, *Harvest of Light* gives a whole new meaning to Chanukah preparation. And to think that I just go out and buy a box of candles!

From my family to yours, *Chag Sameach!*

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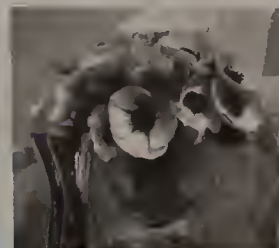
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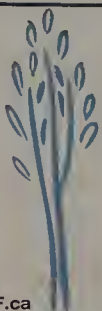
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Continued on page 52



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R'fuah Sh'lemah to:

Sol Kaiman by Arlene and Mel Schwey.

Birthday wishes to:

Sol Kaiman by Donald Cherm and Robert Lebens.

In observance of the Yahrzeit of:

Tillie Cherm, a beloved mother by Sol and Sylvia Kaiman.

ARTHUR AND LINDA COGAN FUND FOR YOUNG WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP R'fuah Sh'lemah to:

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Laya Shabinsky by Arthur and Linda Cogan.

In appreciation to:

Len Farber by Arthur and Linda Cogan.

Stephen Greenberg by Arthur and Linda Cogan.

Mazal Tov to:

Chuck and Bonnie Merovitz on the birth of their grandson by Arthur and Linda Cogan.

Birthday wishes to:

Jacie Levinson by Arthur and Linda Cogan.

ISRAEL AND POLLY COHEN ENDOWMENT FUND

Birthday wishes to:

Pepi Greenberg by Anna and Ronnie Cantor.

SANDI AND EDDY COOK ENDOWMENT FUND

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Tania Firestone by Sandi and Eddy Cook and family.

Congratulations to:

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COOPERMAN-SHUSTER FAMILY FUND

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Mazal Tov to:

Terry Schwarzfeld on her installation as President of CHW by Donna and Bernie Dolansky.

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Mazal Tov to:

Joel and Sharon Edelson on their grandson Jacob becoming a Bar Mitzvah by Monda Halpern.

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Birthday wishes to:

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Mazal Tov to:

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In memory of:

Tania Firestone by Rhoda and Jeffrey Miller.

ROZ AND STEVEN FREMETH FAMILY FUND

In memory of:

Majer Pulvermacher by Steven and Roslyn Fremeth.

Mazal Tov to:

Harvey and Danielle Shenefield on the birth of their twin granddaughters by Steven and Roslyn Fremeth.

GILBOA/MAOZ FAMILY FUND

Mazal Tov to:

Shelli and Steven Kimmel on the engagement of Leora to Ben Greene by Helen and Chaim Gilboa.

Noreen and Sydney Bosloy on the Bat Mitzvah of Mara Lily Bosloy by Helen and Chaim Gilboa.

Vera and George on the Bat Mitzvah of Mara Lily Bosloy by Helen and Chaim Gilboa.

Toda Rabah to:

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HOWARD HERZL GOLDBERG SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Speedy recovery to:

Simone Fishbach by Helene, Shawn, Chaim and Aaron Goldberg.

IBOLYA AND HOWARD GOLDBERG FAMILY FUND

Mazal Tov to:

Ruth Kaplan on her recent engagement by

Helene, Shawn, Chaim and Aaron Goldberg.

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Anniversary wishes to:

Rose and Morrie Konick by Sally and Morton Taller.

NATHAN AND SARAH GREENBERG MEMORIAL FUND

Birthday wishes to:

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Birthday wishes to:

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Manny Shacter by Dorothy and Hy Hymes.

In memory of:

Mr. Haddad by Dorothy and Hy Hymes.

Tania Firestone by Dorothy and Hy Hymes.

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Mazal Tov to:

Gillian and Jordan Galdblatt on the birth of their son by Libby and Stan Katz.

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Joe Osterer by Stan Kimmel and Carol Spiro.

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Speedy recovery to:

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KRANTZBERG KRANE FAMILY FUND

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Simon Wasserberger's mother by Myra and Sam Krane.

Birthday wishes to:

Marsha Kohn by Myra and Sam Krane.

NORMAN AND ISABEL LESH ENDOWMENT FUND

Mazal Tov to:

Norm and Ruth Golovsky on their grandson's Bar Mitzvah by Norman and Isabel Lesh.

In memory of:

Tania Firestone by Norman and Isabel Lesh.

Continued on page 53



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Yetta Rockman by Jacie and Sandra Levinson.

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In memory of:
Yetta Rockman by Ingrid and Gerry Levitz.

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In appreciation to:
Sid and Caliy Kardash by Barbara, Howard
and Lorne Geller.

JOSEPH AND EVELYN LIEFF ENDOWMENT FUND

In appreciation to:
Gustavo Rymberg by Francie Greenspoon
and Norman Lieff.

Birthday wishes to:
Laurie Shusterman by Francie Greenspoon
and Norman Lieff.

Mazal Tov to:
Bonnie and Bruce Engel on their daughter
Sabrina's Bat Mitzvah by Francie Greenspoon
and Norman Lieff.

Anita Bloom and Scott Singer on their son
Ben's Bar Mitzvah by Francie Greenspoon and
Norman Lieff.

R'fuah Sh'lemah to:
Andrea Arron by Joseph and Evelyn Lieff.
Manny Bernard by Joseph and Evelyn Lieff.

In memory of:
David Molot by Joseph and Evelyn Lieff.

IRVING AND ELLEN LITHWICK EN- DOWMENT FUND

Anniversary wishes to
Earle and Vicki Weiss by Yvonne and Harvey
Lithwick and family.

Continued good health to:
Earle Weiss by Yvonne and Harvey Lithwick
and family.

ETHEL AND DAVID MALEK ENDOWMENT FUND

Mazal Tov to:
Ethel and David on their granddaughter's Bat
Mitzvah by Edie Landau.

DAVE, LOUIS AND LAZ MIRSKY ENDOWMENT FUND

R'fuah Sh'lemah to:
Manny Bernard by Debbie and Herb Cosman
and family.

ABRAM AND EDITH MOLOT MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of:
David Molot by Alan Greenberg and Karen
Somerville.

PEARL AND DAVID MOSKOVIC ENDOWMENT FUND

In observance of the Yahrzeit of:
Froda Feinstein, a beloved mother and grand-
mother by Pearl and David Moskovic and
family.

OTTAWA JEWISH COMMUNITY ENDOWMENT FUND

Mazal Tov to:
Mara Lily Bosloy on her Bat Mitzvah by
Laura and David Kilgour.

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Birthday wishes to:
Morton Pleet by Pinchas and Barbara
Pleet.

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R'fuah Sh'lemah to:
Andrea Arron by Jack and Miriam Pleet.

NANCY AND LARRY PLEET ENDOWMENT FUND

Birthday wishes to:
Morton Pleet by Nancy and Larry Pleet.

GERALD AND MARY-BELLE PULVERMACHER FAMILY ENDOWMENT FUND

Mazal Tov to:
David and Rochelle Greenberg on the birth of
their twin granddaughters by Gerry and Mary-
Belle Pulvermacher.
Harvey and Danielle Shanefield on the birth
of their twin granddaughters by Gerry and Mary-
Belle Pulvermacher.

PHYLLIS AND ALAN RACKOW ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of:
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ow.

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Speedy recovery to:
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Steven Resnick.
Special birthday wishes to:
Sam Goldmaker by Penny, Gordie, Zac and
Steven Resnick.

RICKIE AND MARTIN SASLOVE FAMILY FUND

In memory of:
Moshe Benlolo by the Miller family.

Yetta Rockman by Rhoda Saslove-Miller and
Jeff Miller.

R'fuah Sh'lemah to:
Sol Kairman by Rhoda, Jeff, Howard and Sara
Miller.

ALAN AND BETTY SEGAL MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of:
Rosa DeVito by Ned and Gail Segal.

ABRAHAM AND MARY SHAFFER MEMORIAL FUND

Best wishes to:
Rhea Wohl in her new home by Myra and
Sam Krane.

Continued on page 54

In Appreciation

On behalf of my family, we wish to express our warmest appreciation to all our friends and members of the Ottawa Jewish community for their generous donations, cards and expressions of sympathy during the recent loss of our dear father, grandfather and great-grandfather Moshe Benlolo z"l. Your thoughtfulness and generosity are very much appreciated. Please accept this as our personal thank you.

Cantor Daniel Benlolo and Family

**Readers are advised
that In Appreciation notices
may not always appear
on Foundation pages,
particularly when space is limited.**

CARLSON WAGONLIT TRAVEL SPECIAL 2009 GROUP DEPARTURES

January 22nd BRIDGE WITH LIZ IN PUERTO VALLARTA, MEXICO - 7 DAYS
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February 7th RUBY PRINCESS GOLF CRUISE WITH PAUL SHERRATT
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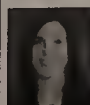
April 6th PASSOVER KOSHER CRUISE DEPARTS FORT LAUDERDALE
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May 25th CANYON RANCH SPA GETAWAY - Almost sold out!
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June 29th BALTIC CRUISE ON OCEANIA REGATTA - 14 DAYS
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October 12th VISIT EXOTIC MOROCCO WITH CANTOR DANIEL BENLOLO
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Please call Chris Calder (ext. 229) or Nancy Borer (ext. 232)
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LORNE AND LAURIE SHUSTERMAN FAMILY FUND

Birthday wishes to:
Laurie Shusterman by Marilyn Hicks.

JACK AND SARAH SILVERSTEIN FAMILY ENDOWMENT FUND

Mazel Tov to:
Shelli and Steven Kimmel on Leora's engagement to Ben Greene by the Silversteins.
Judah and Margo Silverman on Daniel's engagement to Rachel Hindel by the Silversteins.

LAURA AND GORDON SPERGEL ENDOWMENT FUND

Mazel Tov to:
Laura and Gordon Spergel on the birth of their great-grandson by Libby and Stan Katz.
Julie and Alan Spergel on the birth of their grandson by Libby and Stan Katz; and by Mark and Marla Spergel and family.
Lawrence and Marla Goldin on Jennifer's engagement by Mark and Marla Spergel and family.
Anniversary wishes to:
Harry and Estelle Schwartz on their 53rd wedding anniversary by Mark and Marla Spergel and family.

JAY B. TALLER MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of:
David Molot by Sally and Morton Taller.
In observance of the Yahrzeit of:
Jack Roodman by Sally and Morton Taller.
Mazel Tov to:
Sally and Morton Taller on Noah's Bat Mitzvah by Libby and Stan Katz.

CHARLES AND RAE TAVEL MEMORIAL FUND

Birthday wishes to:
Morton Plect by Lilyan Philipp.
In memory of:
Marlene Oefner by Lilyan Philipp.

BRENT AND RISA TAYLOR ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of:
Daniel Spring by Ethel and Irving Taylor, Risa, Brent & Shira Taylor.
Mazel Tov to:
Howard and Resa Sitzer on the marriage of Elysse to David Heching by Brent, Risa and Shira Taylor.

CHARLES AND ROSE TAYLOR ENDOWMENT FUND

Anniversary wishes to:
Hugh and Sara Shabsove on their 60th wedding anniversary by Chuck and Rose Taylor.

IRVING AND ETHEL TAYLOR ENDOWMENT FUND

Anniversary wishes to:
Ethel and Irving Taylor on their 54th wedding anniversary by Harriet and Irving Sloane; and by Mark, Marla, Andrew, Samantha and Evan Spergel.

JEFFREY TAYLOR AND SUSIE WEISMAN ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of:
Yetta Rockman by Jeff, Josh, Bram and Dani Taylor and Susie Weisman.

LISE AND MARK THAW FAMILY FUND

Mazel Tov to:
Diane Betel and Michael Gennis on their engagement by Lise, Mark, Alayna and Bryan Thaw.
Congratulations to:
Barbara Crook and Dan Greenberg on being Negev dinner honorees by Lise and Mark Thaw.
Best of luck to:
Jon Reider on his new business venture by Lise, Mark, Alayna and Bryan Thaw.
Continued good health to:
Gustavo Rymberg by Lise and Mark Thaw.
R'fuah Sh'leimah to:
Andrea Arron by Lise, Mark, Alayna and Bryan Thaw.
Birthday wishes to:
Pearl Thaw by Barbara and Gerry Thaw.
In memory of:
Tania Firestone by Lise, Mark, Alayna and Bryan Thaw.

STEPHEN AND GAIL VICTOR ENDOWMENT FUND

Mazel Tov to:
Sandi and Eddy Cook on the birth of their grandson by Sandy Marchello.
Shelli and Steven Kimmel on Leora's engagement to Ben Greene by Stephen and Gail Victor.

HAZE WAINBERG FAMILY FUND

Birthday wishes to:
Haze Weinberg by Sharon and Stanley Asher.

MIRIAM AND LOUIS WEINER ENDOWMENT FUND

Mazel Tov to:
Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Shabsove on becoming great-grandparents of twin granddaughters by Miriam and Louis Weiner.
Best wishes to:
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Weiner in their new home by Miriam and Louis Weiner; and by Carol and Larry Gradus.

MILDRED AND PERCY WEINSTEIN ENDOWMENT FUND

Special birthday wishes to:
Lawrence Plect by Millie Weinstein and Bruce Weinstein.

In memory of:
Tania Firestone by Millie Weinstein.

ROBERT WENER AND LYNNE ORECK WENER FAMILY FUND

Mazel Tov to:
Bob Wener on his new position by Pam Wener and Gary Altman.

CAROLE AND NORMAN ZAGERMAN
COMMUNITY ENDOWMENT FUND
Wishing good health to:
Andrea Arron by Marilyn and William Newman.

ZIPES KARANOFKY FAMILY ENDOWMENT FUND

Mazel Tov to:
Erie Elkin and Molly Hirsch on the engagement of Ben to Natalie Levine by Rick and Helen Zipes.
Esther and Irv Kulik on the birth of their twin grandsons by Rick and Helen Zipes and family.
Gary and Marion Kirsh on the engagement of David to Amanda Schwartz by Rick and Helen Zipes and family.
Birthday wishes to:
Mildred Cappell by Rick and Helen, Kyle, Erin, Michael, Audrey and Griffin Zipes.
Siggy Rajman by Rick and Helen Zipes and family.
In memory of:
Harold Bryanton by Rick and Helen Zipes.

THE SAUL AND EDNA GOLDFARB B'NAI MITZVAH PROGRAM

ETHAN JESSE CALOF
B'NAI MITZVAH FUND
In memory of:
Howard Blitt by Cheryl, Danny, Ethan and Ophira Calof

RYAN GOLDBERG B'NAI MITZVAH FUND

In memory of:
Aaron Kamins by Mary and Len Potechin.
Tania Firestone by Mary and Len Potechin.

SARAH ESTHER LESH MITZVAH FUND

In memory of:
Tania Firestone by Liz, Sarah and Sammy Lesh.

ZACHARY SILBER B'NAI MITZVAH FUND

In memory of:
Daniel Spring by Shari, Lawrence, Erin and Zack Silber.

ALAYNA AND BRYAN THAW MITZVAH FUND

Birthday wishes to:
Gerry Thaw by Pearl and Erwin Thaw; and by Jeffrey Thaw and family.
Anniversary wishes to:
Barbara and Gerry Thaw by Pearl and Erwin Thaw.

JUSTIN WAKTER MITZVAH FUND

Congratulations to:
The Honourable Justice Gerald J. Rip on his appointment to Chief Justice of the Tax Court of Canada by Sally and Morton Taller.

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**Readers and advertisers are advised
that the next edition of the Ottawa Jewish Bulletin
will be published
on Monday, January 26, 2009.**

The deadline date is Wednesday, January 7, 2009.

Hall of famer Moe Segal still a winner

Two members of Ottawa's Jewish Sports Hall of Fame have played on Grey Cup teams. Noah Cantor was a three-time champion with the Toronto Argonauts and B.C. Lions in an illustrious 11-year CFL career. Less is known about our other Grey Cup winner. Noah's uncle, Moe Segal, competed in an era that featured leather helmets and cleats, canvas football pants and players who played their hearts out on offence and defence.

At Ottawa Technical High School, Moe was an offensive and defensive lineman, and co-captain of the 1943 City of Ottawa Junior Championship team. Upon graduation, 18-year-old Moe joined the navy and was assigned to a wireless communications training course on the *HMCS Donnacona* in St. Hyacinthe, Quebec. When the navy fielded a team in the Quebec Rugby Football Association, he decided to try out for the squad. The five-foot-nine, 190 pound, Segal made the team and remembers that the roster boasted eight pros from the Toronto Argonauts.

The Montreal St. Hyacinthe-Donnacona Navy team – 'the Donnies' – had a terrific season. Moe jokes that, although there was great camaraderie, there was little fanfare when the team won. There was little time for practice and, when the team did work out, players were gathered on a truck and started to Montreal and then back to the base.

During the pre-CFL war years, the Grey Cup was contested between the amateur Ontario and Quebec Rugby Football Unions (ORFU and QRFU) and the Big Four professional teams in Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa and Hamilton.

Moe starred in the playoffs, blocking punts and picking up fumbles on the way to securing the 1944 QRFU title. Montreal St. Hyacinthe-Donnacona Navy then beat York to advance to the Canadian Championship, but, in that game, Segal was injured in a freak collision with CFL Hall of Famer Annis Stukus. Moe was convalescing in the hospital, when Navy upset the Hamilton Wildcats 7-6 to win the Grey Cup at Varsity Stadium.

The triumph was short lived. The team was disbanded after the season and, by December 1944, Segal was serving in Plymouth, England. He spent the next year and a half with the wireless corps in Europe. Even overseas, football was not far from Moe's mind, as Ottawa scout Tom Daley had contacted Moe about trying out for the Rough Riders, which he did upon discharge from the navy.

Moe made the team as a two-way lineman in 1946, the first year the Big Four allowed American imports. He recalls that Howie Turner and Montreal's Herb Trawick were terrific players.

By this time, he had met the love of his life, Sandy Schwartz, who filled in at the Bank Street confectionary the couple owned, when her husband attended practice at Landsdowne Park. Moe received the princely sum of \$50.00 per game to play in the 1946 season, but ran into a bit of trouble that season after informing the team that he would not play



Moe Segal

on *Yom Kippur*. Moe shakes his head when recalling that Coach George Fraser benched him for the next two games, but prefers to believe that management had decided to go in a different direction on the offensive and defensive lines rather than it being a punitive action for not playing on *Yom Tov*.



Irv Osterer

Moe jumped to the Ottawa Trojans in 1947 for a guaranteed \$500 contract. In the league semi-final, he recovered two fumbles to help defeat the Hamilton Wildcats 16-7. Ottawa then beat Toronto Balmy Beach to win the ORFU title. In what was to be Segal's final professional game, the Trojans were defeated by Joe Krol's Argonauts in the Grey Cup semi-final. Moe had suffered two concussions during the season and decided it was time to retire.

After selling his Bank Street confectionary, Moe worked for Joe Feller for a decade before opening the trendy Squire Shop on the Sparks Street Mall. He finished his business career in commercial real estate working for CA Fitzsimmons and Regional Realty. During that time, he also logged many years of community service with B'nai Brith Lodge #885.

Moe was an active member of the Rough Riders and Renegade alumni. In 1994, he participated in the Peter Dalla Riva benefit game for the handicapped and, in 1995, he and his Navy Grey Cup team mates were inducted into the Canadian Forces Sports Hall of Fame. Segal is still a big football fan and prefers the CFL game. He wishes the Greenberg-Shenkman proposal for Landsdowne Park well, and hopes professional football will return to the nation's capital.

Moe was married for 46 wonderful years to the late Sarah Leah (Sandy) Schwartz. Sons Eric and Steven reside in Toronto, and Moe drives there twice a month to spend time with his family. Those wanting to talk football with Moe can usually find him at Agudath Israel Congregation most evenings helping with the *mincha* and *maariv* minyan.



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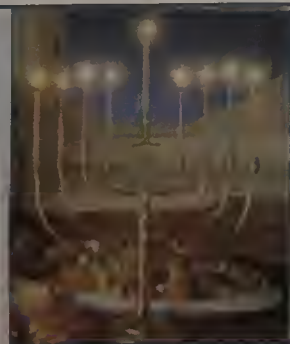
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WHAT'S GOING ON

December 15, 2008 to January 25, 2009

Happy Chanukah to the
Ottawa Jewish Community



CANDLELIGHTING BEFORE

Dec 19 ☆ 4:04 pm
Dec 26 ☆ 4:08 pm
Jan 2 ☆ 4:13 pm
Jan 9 ☆ 4:20 pm
Jan 16 ☆ 4:29 pm
Jan 23 ☆ 4:38 pm

WEEKLY EVENTS TUESDAYS

Israeli Folkdancing, learn dances, have fun, no experience or partner necessary, Hillel Academy, 31 Nadolny Sachs Private, 6:30 pm. Info: 613-722-9323.

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 17

Let's Do Lunch, sponsored by Jewish Family Services and Agudath Israel Congregation, monthly program for seniors featuring a luncheon and sing-along with Cantor Shneur Bielak, 1400 Coldrey Avenue, 12:00 pm. Info: 613-728-3501.

THURSDAY DECEMBER 18

Yiddish-speaking group *Lomir Reydn Yiddish*, sponsored by Jewish Family Services, 2255 Carling Avenue, Suite 301, 10:00 am. Info: 613-722-2225, ext. 325.



SUNDAY DECEMBER 21

Chanukah Spirit, sponsored by Jewish Education through Torah and Soloway Jewish Community Centre, crafts, games, music, latkes and Chanukah Silly Olympics, 2:30 pm. Info: 613-798-9818, ext. 247.



Candlelighting on Parliament Hill, sponsored by the Chabad Student Network, 4:30 pm. Info: www.chabadstudentnetwork.com.

THURSDAY JANUARY 15

Na'amat Women's Leadership Seminar, part of the Na'amat Leadership Seminar Series, location to be determined, 9:00 am. Info: 613-526-2968.

THURSDAY JANUARY 22

Yiddish-speaking group *Lomir Reydn Yiddish*, sponsored by Jewish Family Services, 2255 Carling Avenue, Suite 301, 10:00 am. Info: 613-722-2225, ext. 325.

SUNDAY JANUARY 25

Shalom Ottawa, our community program on Rogers 22, 12:00 pm (repeated on Saturday, January 31 at 12:00 pm).

Shalom
Ottawa

COMING SOON

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Jewish Unity Live, sponsored by Jewish Education through Torah, evening of entertainment and inspiration, Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington Street, 7:00 pm. Info: 613-798-9818, ext. 247.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

A.M. Klein: A Centenary Celebration, sponsored by the University of Ottawa's Vered Jewish Canadian Studies Program and Tree Reading Series, evening devoted to the writings and legacy of A.M. Klein, hosted by Professor Seymour Mayne with participating writers, Arts Court Library, 2 Daly Avenue, 8:00 pm. Info: 613-749-3773.

FEBRUARY 21 TO MARCH 1, 2009

Tour the winery industry in Israel, sponsored by Canadian Friends of Hebrew University, with Tony Aspler, Canada's premier wine critic, and a unique and wonderful tasting tour of Israel's growing boutique wine industry. Info: 613-829-3150.

Unless otherwise noted, activities take place at The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 21 Nadolny Sachs Private.

This information is taken from the community calendar maintained by the Jewish Ottawa InfoCentre. Organizations which would like their events to be listed, no matter where they are to be held, should send the information to InfoCentre coordinator Benita Siemiatycki via e-mail at bsiemiatycki@jewishottawa.com or fax at 613-798-4695. She can also be reached by telephone at 613-798-4644. Accurate details must be provided and all events must be open to the Jewish public.

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Condolences

Condolences are extended to
the families of:

Moshe Benlolo, Montreal
(father of Cantor Daniel Benlolo)
Ellen Binder
Mary Bloom
Tania Firestone
Aaron Kamins, Rockville
(son of Mark Kamins
and Sue Potechin)

Shirley Larventz
Doris May, Montreal
(mother of Nina May)
Majer Pulvermacher
Jack Raskin, Vancouver
(brother of Lee Raskin)
Yetta Rockman
Ruth Siggner
May their memory
be a blessing always.

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For a listing
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Carolene Preap,
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BULLETIN DEADLINES

2009

JANUARY 7 FOR JANUARY 26
JANUARY 23 FOR FEBRUARY 9
FEBRUARY 4 FOR FEBRUARY 23
FEBRUARY 18 FOR MARCH 9